NIAGARA NEWS

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Hudson sent to jail for United Way fund-raiser

Steve Hudson sits in jail holding a United Way donation box at Seaway Mall in Welland on Oct. 20. His arrest helped raise $918 for the United Way.

Photo by Kevin Hartford

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

As of Oct. 20, this year's United Way campaign has raised $283,237, or 28 per cent of the $1-million campaign goal.

Individually, Welland has raised $185,493, 30 per cent of its $625,000 goal, Pelham has raised $18,316, 61 per cent of its $30,000 goal, and Port Colborne and Wainfleet have raised $19,314, 19 per cent of their $100,000 goal.

Traditionally, events such as the recent Jail and Bail and the upcoming Ladies Night Out have helped the United Way raise money for its campaigns.

Jail and Bail, says Sharon Svob, United Way of South Niagara's campaign and marketing director, is "a fun event. We like people to take it all in fun."

Employees pay to have a boss or co-worker arrested. Then the amount they paid must be matched or bettered for the person to be released from a prison set up at the Seaway Mall in Welland or Market Square in Port Colborne. Volunteer judges are there for the proceedings.

Jail and Bail, held on Oct. 20, saw Niagara College's own Steve Hudson, vice-president corporate services, arrested in the name of charity. Jail and Bail has been a United Way fund-raising event since 1986.

Ladies Night Out, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 15 at the Peninsula Lakes Golf Course in Pelham, consists of a fashion show, a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres, and marks the seventh year the event has raised money for the United Way campaign.

Advance tickets are $20. Tickets will be available at the door, but buy early, as there will be a "limited number of tickets at the door," says Svob. "We have to book the number of people that are going to be there in advance because it is a bit of an evening. There's only so many we can take (at the door) beyond what we already have booked."

Ladies Night Out is co-ordinated by Wendy Thomas, an associate broker for Royal LePage Real Estate in Welland. Please contact Thomas at 734-4545 for more information.

Donations to the United Way can be made by phone. Donations will be added to your phone bill and will be directed by postal code to your community. To donate $25, call 1-900-565-7025. To donate $50, call 1-900-565-7050. To donate $100, call 1-900-565-7100. To donate $250, call 1-900-565-7250. To donate $500, call 1-900-565-7500. The United Way will issue a tax receipt for donations made by phone.

Niagara College's United Way goal is $20,000.

Niagara students not told of on-campus sexual assault

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

While Niagara College officials may have felt it was not necessary to alert the majority of students about a recent sexual assault at the Welland campus, students had a different view.

The incident occurred on Oct. 11 shortly after 11 p.m., when a female was returning to residence following Comedy Night at the campus's After Hours pub. The 19-year-old student was approached by a man on a bicycle who touched the victim in a sexual manner, then fled the scene when other students approached, reported Niagara Regional Police (NRP).

Police described the suspect as a 30-year-old, white male, five-feet-six inches tall, 240 pounds, brown curly hair with a beard and moustache. He was wearing a black and red ski jacket and dark sweatpants. A man was arrested by NRP several days later.

According to college officials, the suspect is not a student of the college and had no reason to be on the premises.

The recent incident caught many students and staff by surprise, including the college president, prompting a review of security practices.

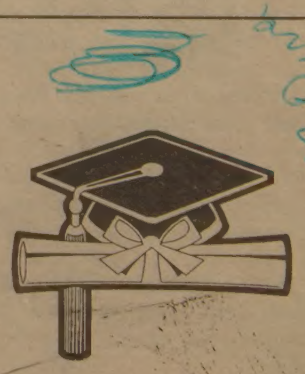
When Dan Patterson, college president, learned of the incident the following morning, he said, "I was very alarmed, to say the least," adding, "This was an unusual situation for Niagara College."

Immediately upon receiving word of the incident, Patterson says, the college officials notified NRP and they began an investigation. At this time, the college felt "all reasonable precautions were in place." **Continued on Page 2**

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Congratulations Graduates!

The International Education Department extends our congratulations to all of the graduates of 2000. Special congratulations to our 35 international graduates from 14 different countries around the world.



CAMPUS COVERAGE

Man arrested for sex assault on student

Continued from Page 1

Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the president, stated, "Because of the nature of the incident we didn't feel there was anything extra we could do. Student safety wasn't being jeopardized in any way."

Students on the Welland campus expressed a different opinion as to whether the college did enough to alert students while the sexual predator remained at large.

"We should have been told sooner. It was so close," says Lisa Wayda, of Dundas, Ont., standing outside student residence and pointing behind her, to a student pathway and the approximate location of the incident.

The 19-year-old first-year student of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, says, "I didn't hear much," and "not any of it" was from the college. "I heard about it from my mom."

Patterson says he feels Niagara College is doing all it can to ensure the safety of its students. "Students expect and deserve a safe working and learning environment at Niagara College."

'Student safety wasn't being jeopardized in any way.' — Darrell Neufeld

"I was shocked," says Krystle Dalgieshi, 18, a first-year student of the Police Foundations program.

Kathy Deyell, a second-year student of the ECE program and resident of Niagara College student residence, Welland campus, says the college should have done more to inform students. The 20-year-old says women should not be walking alone at night, without caution. "You think that if you're in residence nothing will happen. I wouldn't risk it myself."

'We should have been told sooner. It was so close.' — Lisa Wayda

She suggests the college have more security officers roaming the premises in the evening hours.

Only students living in residence received notification from the college. A brief description of the assault and suspect were posted on each floor of the building.

Students who talked to the *Niagara News* say they only observed the notice in residence after the man was arrested. They say a warning should have been issued earlier.

Security measures Patterson boasts of include well-lit parking lots, 24-hour security at all three campuses and educating students about safety precautions.

"We do not and will not tolerate these kinds of incidents, and will do everything in our power to ensure student safety."

Students are encouraged to forward any suggestions or comments regarding student safety directly to Patterson in care of the President's Office, Hennepin Hall H5, Welland campus.

The accused, Randy Jupp, a 29-year-old mentally challenged man, appeared in Ontario court in St. Catharines, on Oct. 18. He was released to his parents on $2,500 bail. He has been ordered to stay away from Niagara College and the victim as well as live with his parents and remain under the supervision of his father, Thomas.

Jupp will return to court on Nov. 15 at 9 a.m. in Welland.

Butko means business

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Jim Butko said he hopes to still be doing what he enjoys, teaching at the Niagara College, 20 years from now.

Working at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Butko teaches first-year students Canadian business law and economics and second-year students computer applications for business.

Neil Chartrand, director of the Business and Entrepreneurship division, praises Butko as a welcome "new addition" to the faculty.

Butko said before joining the college as a full-time faculty member, he taught financial planning courses with the college's Continuing Education division for four years.

A graduate of Brock University in St. Catharines, with a three-year bachelor's degree in business administration, he started his teaching career there, instructing students in "mostly finance, investments, and some accounting" for about 12 years.

He lives in Fonthill with his wife and six children — three sons and three daughters. Altogether, he added, their ages range from one-and-a-half to 11 years old.

The 44-year-old teacher was born in southern St. Catharines, which he called "the shadow of the escarpment." He recalled, growing up with a family that included two brothers and a sister, they lived just a mile from where the university stands today but wasn't built yet in his childhood.

Butko explained, even when Brock was finally built, he did not go there, much less into studying business. A guidance counsellor at his high school, Sir Winston Churchill, convinced him to take engineering at McMaster University in Hamilton.

"There was no consideration from guidance counsellors that if you're good at math and science, that finance and economics were a perfect venue to practise your math and your science skills. So I got directed by guidance to engineering. And I think I was just lucky because I chose a program there that was called Engineering and Management, and after a couple of years I found I was liking the management and hating the engineering, so I switched to business and then I decided I might as well switch to Brock."

Even becoming a teacher was through a chance sequence of events. After completing his degree at Brock, he attended McGill University in Montreal to complete his master's degree in business administration (MBA).

Continued on Page 23

Bring your kids to work

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

For one day out of the year, parents can't escape their children, not even when they go to work.

On Nov. 1, parents who have a Grade 9 student can participate in the provincewide Take Our Kids To Work Day. The students spend a workday "shadowing" their parents or someone whom they can identify with.

This is the third year Niagara College has participated in the "learning experience for students."

Niagara College will be hosting the students to tours of the Welland campus and Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, followed by a pizza lunch. They conclude their afternoon by observing their parents as they work.

There are about 25 registered to attend this year's event, with a slight decline from last year's 33 participants.

"The participation rate is really just depending on the staff that has a Grade 9 student," says Colleen St. Amand, acting records and recruitment co-ordinator, at the college.

"Some of the students find areas really cool, while they find other areas are a little boring."

Karen Marasco, health care administrator, reviews the student health plan opt out forms at the Welland campus.

Photo by Heidi Morrison

SAC gives students cash back for health plan opt out

Cheques arrive end of the month

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

Here's another way for students to save money.

Students who made the Oct. 2 deadline saved $44.71 by opting out of the student health plan providing by the Student Administrative Council (SAC).

The plan includes coverage of 80 per cent of prescription drugs and accidental insurance.

Students are able to opt out "as long as they have coverage elsewhere," says Karen Marasco, health care administrator.

Students must prove their coverage by writing down their insurance or policy number on the opt out form.

The deadline for full-time students for the 2000-2001 academic year was Oct. 2.

"We had 590 students opt out, but there are 4,998 students registered," Marasco says, "which is up from last year."

This is the second year there has been a health plan at the college. Marasco says the numbers could be up because there is more awareness of the plan this year.

The Oct. 2 deadline was for full-time students only. Students who begin in January will have until Feb. 2 to opt out. To do this, they must go to a SAC office on any of the three campuses and fill in the opt out form.

Students are also allowed to opt in to the plan. Part-time students do not pay the fee in their tuition, but they can opt in and pay it if they would like.

Family members of the student are also able to opt in. This includes a spouse and/or children. The deadline for the family plan was extended to Oct. 6 this year.

"There were 38 family opt ins which is more than last year by far," says Marasco.

The student health plan applies from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31, 2001.

Those students who have opted out can expect to pick up their cheque by the end of the month from the SAC office at the campus they chose when they filled out their form.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Blake says farewell to Niagara College

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Niagara College's $3-million man is leaving.

Christopher Blake, who came to the Niagara May 1, 1997, charged with raising $3 million for the then proposed Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, will be completing his final year in charge of Niagara College fund-raising Dec. 31.

The executive director of the Niagara College Foundation has concluded his three-year contract. Blake says he decided to stay until the end of the year "to oversee the campaign launch for the Master Plan's" next phases.

The Master Plan is a multi-year phased plan of new construction and renovation encompassing all three campuses, including infrastructure of buildings, technology and services.

"This is a good time for me to get out of the way and let somebody else come in," Blake says.

The director says he just wanted to make sure he "completed the assignments and got things in place, for someone else to take over" before he left.

The 48-year-old, from Pembroke, Ont., says he will be returning to his former career as a freelance fund-raising consultant.

Blake says he has considered staying with the college for another campaign, "but I really want to go back to working for myself."

Prior to working for Niagara College Blake owned Blake Communications, a consulting firm in fund-raising and marketing management, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Before establishing his own firm, Blake was employed at Parson Advertising, in Stratford Ont., as vice-president and director of marketing.

While at Niagara, Blake has managed the fund-raising for the newly constructed Glendale campus. He is completing the fund-raising developments of Phase One of the Master Plan, which includes the $3-million campaign goal for reconstruction and renovations at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Blake concludes "I did what I was brought on to do."

The college is expected to make the announcement of his departure in early to mid-December.

Exciting academic programs introduced to college

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Niagara College has experienced a few new and exciting changes, not only structurally, but academically with a number of new programs having been introduced, says the college's vice-president academics.

The School of Business and Entrepreneurship programs saw the introduction of International Business, a two-year program, that focuses on international business and affairs. Because of the new program, the post-graduate program has two business administration program additions. The college has extended the post-graduate program to a two-year and three-year length.

"We are quite pleased with this program's success, and the enrolment is above what we anticipated," said Bonnie Rose.

"A lot more students are interested in international business."

The business division saw the Professional Golf Management program introduced. This program is three years and is designed to teach students the golf industry, by providing them with skills needed to be a head professional, associate professional, assistant professional, golf course manager, assistant golf course manager and golf marketing or sales.

"Golf is a growing industry in Canada particularly in the Niagara region, so to introduce a new program that will benefit the country and our area is really rewarding," said Rose.

"This isn't just a new program for Niagara College, but as well for the rest of the province."

The college has introduced a new two-year Winery and Viticulture program, designed for people who want to work in the area's vineyards and wineries.

With the wine industry growing and constantly changing and attracting thousands of visitors to wineries, the skills obtained will provide the necessary knowledge and know-how to make it in a new yet traditional program, said Rose, adding, "We've more students than anticipated and the program is turning out to be very popular.

"We may extend this program to a post-graduate down the road, but we first want to see how it goes and what the industry needs."

Rose said this program will allow students to go on to university and get a degree in winery.

The School of Horticulture and Agribusiness at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake saw a new two-year Greenhouse Technician program developed.

BONNIE ROSE

"This program was designed because the land and the industry are growing."

The School of Health Studies division at the Welland campus saw the Pharmacy Technician program become a two-year program as opposed to a one-year.

"There is additional knowledge and tasks that pharmacy technicians are expected to be able to perform."

The School of Hospitality and Tourism at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls saw a new post-graduate program become reality — Tourism and Development.

'This new program attracted a lot of international students. In a class of 14, six of them are international students."

Rose said this program was designed to assist in adventure tourism, wellness and spas, cultural tourism, theatre tourism, festivals and food, as well as eco-tourism and agri-tourism. The makeup of the program is to provide students with the ability to plan, design, develop and market a tourism project.

In the fall of 2001, the college will see a new, state-of-the-art Photonics program implemented.

"This will be a post-graduate program studying laser and light technology as well as fibre optics."

Rose said marketing and recruitment worked hard to get these programs off to a good start.

"We are very pleased with the response we have been receiving over these new programs. It shows the importance of getting out there and marketing programs that will be of some use to the students to apply.

"The one big problem all colleges must face is that we have to market programs that will allow students opportunities in the real world. Due to the fact technology is rapidly changing, we have to capture students in these new areas and make them appear interesting enough to try.

"I've spoken to a few students in the various new programs and they seem to be very excited about the upcoming year.

"The winery and viticulture students have already been involved in the Grape and Wine Festival."

Rose said the college will be asking returning students for their feedback on the programs and any improvements needed.

With the iintroduction of the new programs, first-year enrolment is about where it was predicted.

Rose said there was growth in some programs more so than in others.

The lowest numbers were recorded in the post-graduate programs.

"Because we are competing with the job market, urging students to come back and finish is proving a success.

"We try to design programs, through the assessment of the labour market, with the skills and qualifications an individual will need once in the work world.

"We then try to administer to those skills by offering the programs that will do this.

"It is very satisfying when we can attract new students with new programs. It shows we are dedicated to giving them an education that they will be able to use," said Rose.

New manager's job at Foundation requires wide range of talents

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Niagara College has been looking for help.

The Niagara College Foundation, the college's money-raising arm, is hiring a new manager, development and special projects, at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, following former manager Liz Palmieri's departure.

The new manager will report to Chris Blake, executive director of the foundation.

An ad placed on Sept. 23 said the new manager's duties would include the following:

- manage the alumni department strategic plan,
- develop and ensure effective management of profit centres within the foundation,
- develop, plan and recommend new fund-raising initiatives,
- represent the college with provincial and national college advancement departments and agencies.

This person will "make sure we maintain contact with alumni, keeping them in contact with the college, maybe getting them involved in mentoring students," says Blake, adding the person will do some fund-raising for the alumni program, like selling diploma frames and holding barbecues.

Blake says he'd like to see "as many fund-raising initiatives as possible this year. We recently spent $3 million on the redevelopment of the Maid of the Mist Centre (in Niagara Falls).

"(The money) also goes towards funding scholarships and bursaries."

The ad said the job candidate should have a three-year college diploma and/or an undergraduate university degree in a related field, "business or public relations," a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation and a working knowledge of Raiser's Edge fund-raising software, a database program that manages tracking information on donors and alumni.

"Just about all the graduates are in there (the database)," says Blake.

The deadline for résumé submissions was Sept. 29.

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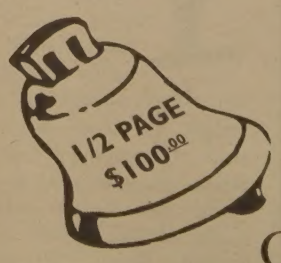

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STUDENT SATISFACTION

KPI opens path for Niagara becoming best

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

The survey says . . . Niagara College is on its way to being one of the best colleges in the province.

Bonnie Rose, the college's vice-president academic, explained the purpose behind the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) surveys that have been administered and will continue to be administered at the college.

KPIs are a series of surveys about student life, college facilities and the programs offered here. The KPIs are done province-wide and, in part, will determine how much money the college will receive from the province to better the school and its programs.

Rose said there are five types of surveys conducted, one being student satisfaction.

All students will complete this survey once a year. It is geared towards programs, services and experiences at the college. It is done over two weeks in February and is conducted for the province and analyzed provincially.

The second survey is about graduate satisfaction. Six months after students graduate, they will get a telephone call from a provincially hired survey company and asked about their work and if they were successful in finding a job.

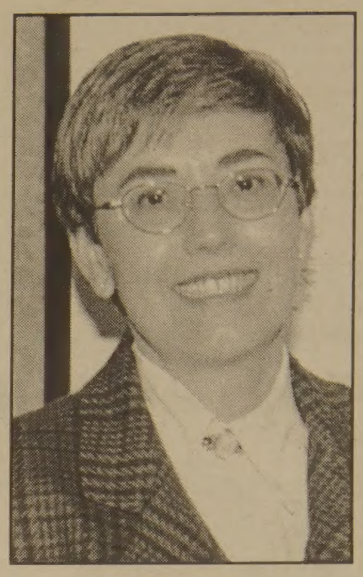
The third survey is about graduate employment. The fourth survey is about graduation rates, while the fifth survey is about employer satisfaction.

"All the information off these reports, once tabulated by the province, is sent back to the college, so we analyze them and assess the areas needing to be fixed. We pore over the details on these reports," said Rose.

"The purpose behind them is so that the province can see how much money each school needs, and the tests tell them how to distribute it. For last year's results, we received $440,000, but the system is arbitrary. It could be a single per cent difference between getting $200,000 or nothing," added Rose.

Although certain program year levels of the school have yet to take any tests, the first-year students just completed their first test. This was based on who they are, where they're from and whether they have a computer. This is a way of finding out who the new students are and why they chose Niagara College. The rest of the students can expect their tests in early February.

Rose said that starting this term, the college would introduce



BONNIE ROSE

a new survey that will deal with individual courses. These Course Evaluation surveys will allow teachers to have some feedback on each of the courses they teach each term, regarding pace, content and feel. The college also hopes to conduct a survey for Continuing Education students on their programs and any changes they want to see.

The KPIs aren't a new endeavour. The student feedback survey has been conducted for two years, while the first-year students' surveys were introduced five years ago. Between the two though, the only one about the students is the first-year survey.

Rose said, "I feel it may be too much at once for students, due to all the new programs introduced and the new campuses. I think the students will be surveyed more than ever."

"It will be interesting. Some of the questions may not be relevant, but it's the feedback the province needs for the funding to be distributed."

Once the surveys are conducted, Rose said, the province reviews the data, and then the results are given back to the individual colleges and they're put into the database for analysis.

The results of the course evaluations will be given to the teachers so they can improve their courses.

"At one time, you could only get the information on the program, not individual courses, which is what led us to integrate the course evaluations due to individual teachers wanting feedback.

"I'm always pleased with the results of the tests, but like any over-achiever, we always want to do better."

Rose said she feels that some schools try to manipulate their students into taking the tests by posting banners, an action which may be going over the line and pushing the students to get involved just for funding earned from it.

"I think we've listened to our students and certainly hope if they feel dissatisfied that they use the surveys to tell us."

Rose said she is personally happy with the college's attitude toward getting feedback from students. "It is important we listen to it and work cohesively with the students to provide them the best possible experience."

Rose said she feels students deserve to know what the results are, how they will be used and what potential impact on funding and the college's reputation they will have.

"They need to know the process and understand that the role they're playing is so important. The KPIs were designed to help make student life and college life a little more enjoyable. These tests assess trouble areas and how we can fix them to cater to all the students' needs."

"From these tests we have been able to improve our labs and facilities for students. I can bet that if you went to another college, our satisfaction would be higher," said Rose.

Bare food cupboards need student assistance

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again when needy students of Niagara College appreciate donations of non-perishable food items and hygiene products from fellow students, staff and the community.

The Food for Friends drive is an annual event the Student Administrative Council (SAC) organizes. SAC President Ryan McLaughlin says that last year's event was "a great success."

This year, the drive is happening from Nov. 21 to Dec. 15, with decorated boxes located throughout all campuses. Cash donations received from the community are used towards gift certificates so students can purchase perishable items such as milk and eggs.

Last year, Canadian Tire Acceptance in Welland, donated $1,000. McLaughlin says Canadian Tire Acceptance is Welland's largest employer and "is all about co-operation."

For more information you can contact the SAC office at 735-2211 or visit the SAC office at your campus.

Time to turn back the clock

Daylight Saving Time happens on Oct. 29 at 2 a.m. when the clocks are set back one hour. That means the college students partying hard get a chance to catch an extra hour's sleep.
Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Doctor's in clinic every Wednesday

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

Have you been to the doctor lately?

This year at the Niagara College Welland campus Health Centre, the Doctor's Clinic is being held every Wednesday, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

It is recommended students bring a valid health card and book an appointment before going to see the doctor, but "walk-ins can sometimes be fit in," says Carolyn Gould, the college nurse. She says this year "we have a young new physician in the area who has agreed to take on Niagara College."

Dr. Paul Oliverio has his own practice in Welland and works at Brock University in St. Catharines on Wednesday afternoons.

"He likes student health," says Gould.

Some information services available at the Heath Centre are about healthy sexuality involving birth control and pregnancy and body image issues such as nutrition and healthy weight. Lifestyle choices, such as stress management and substance abuse, are addressed in pamphlets, community referrals and first aid.

The Health Centre is in Lundy building Room L20 and is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless posted otherwise.

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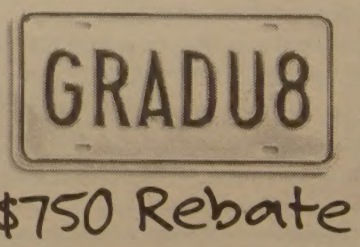

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EDITORIAL

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Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, Room S212, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2
Phone (905) 735-2211 / 641-2252 / 374-7454 / FAX (905) 736-6003
Editor: Dan D'Amico; **Associate Editor:** Heidi Morrison; **Assistant Editor:** Stephen D'Orazio;
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Political circus a turnoff for voters

It's that time again. The meek 67 per cent of Canadians who actually vote, please get ready to take your places at the voting booths.

In the left lane, we have our ever-faithful Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, whose main strategy is to do good things near voting time.

In the right lane, we have Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day, a mild-mannered version of Pierre Trudeau (no offence, Pierre).

Our pace car for this year's race will be Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark. Thank you, Joe, for attending this event and rounding off the votes to a nice even number. Let us not forget the pit team, New Democratic Party leader Alexa McDonough and Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe.

Chrétien seems to reward Canadians just before vote time. A very good strategy. It isn't the first and won't be the last time we see it.

The only problem with this is that when the Governor-General dissolved parliament, there were four crucial bills on the table that we as a country would have liked to have seen be passed.

- C-3: Toughens up the youth justice system.
- C-31: Reworks old Immigration Act.
- C-33: Protects some species at risk of extinction.
- C-38: Restructures financial services with new protections for consumers.

Ah, well.

Are Canadians content with what the Liberals have done? Yes. Do we like Chrétien? No.

Stockwell Day promises to make this country a better place. "Something the taxpayers deserve," he says.

He promises a lot of things and he is full of criticism. He has a lot of talk, but little action. However, he is much more personable than our fair prime minister.

Note: In Ottawa, action is defined as having some sort of plan put on paper.

Why don't we elect Joe Clark? Because silly, nobody ever votes for Clark.

It's a political circus that turns off most Canadians from voting, but we should. If we were to match statistics on the amount of complaining about government to the number who vote, the results might shock you.

Dan D'Amico

Drivers: have courtesy on the road

The music is pumping. The sun is shining.

You're cruising along the highway, enjoying the scenery.

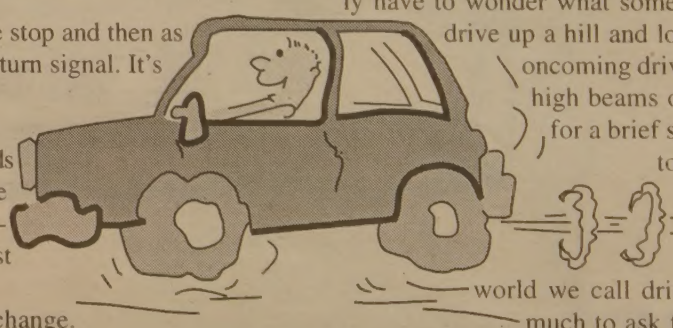
All of a sudden, you see the angry, red brake lights on the car in front of you. Your foot automatically slams down on your own pedal.

What are they doing? you ask yourself.

After the car in front of you has come to a complete stop and then as it begins to turn, the driver puts on that little flashing turn signal. It's almost as if that signal is mocking you.

Welcome to the world of driving.

There are many frustrating aspects to driving on the roads these days, the first one being turn signals. The entire purpose of a signal is to give other vehicles some warning of what you're planning to do. Waiting until the last second to signal is a waste of time.



One of my favourites is the ever-popular lane change. Some people seem to think if they glide gracefully in front of your car without signaling and cut you off, they have a right to be mad at you for almost rear-ending them. After all, they were being helpful and giving your brakes some exercise.

Next in line for the all-time worst driving habit is to sit in the left-hand turn lane with no signal. As the light turns green, the driver accelerates while turning on the signal. Is there any point to this? Why is it so difficult to turn on the signal earlier, as the car enters the left-hand turn lane, instead of waiting until it's time to turn?

Another example happens at night — those nice, blinding high beams. You really have to wonder what some people are thinking when they drive at night. You drive up a hill and lower your lights so as not to damage the sight of the oncoming driver. Unfortunately, that other driver has not turned the high beams off. And . . . bam! The lights flash before your eyes for a brief second and then they're gone. Wouldn't you just love to scream? You know that driver saw you. Maybe it's assumed you have special powers. Maybe the driver is just dumb.

There are many other frustrating habits in this world we call driving. The main question we ask is, why? Is it too much to ask for a little courtesy on the road? Maybe if we could all put ourselves in the other driver's seat for a moment, we may avoid a few of these unnecessary mishaps.

Or maybe everyone just needs to go back to driving school.

Heidi Morrison

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

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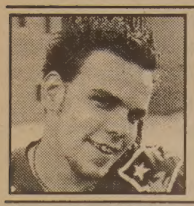
VIEWPOINTS

So you think you're looking good



By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer
Column

STOP RIGHT THERE!

Before you read any further, look at yourself.

No really, look at who you've become. Look at your hair, your shoes, your shirt and so on.

Do you like what you're looking at?

Think you look pretty good, right?

Chances are you do, and frankly it makes me sick.

Before you're so quick to move on to another article realize I make myself sick as well.

Fashion, unfortunately, determines most of our lives. We really can't avoid it and I bet you don't even notice it.

Think of the rush that you get when you spend your hard-earned dollars on a new outfit. You feel so proud knowing

A first impression means so much, and it's seldom you get another chance to change it.

that you look good. There really isn't anything wrong with it unless you don't grasp the thought your pride is only on the surface.

I don't pass a mirror without checking myself out, but after I returned from the streets, I now know it's not the clothes which make me.

You see, society loves to label people. A first impression means so much, and it's seldom you get another chance to change it.

Logically, you should make the best of yourself, but who is it really for?

Do you honestly think those GAP jeans will get you further-than a pair from Value Village?

I sure hope not.

My point is simple. It's been said before, but no one seems to get it.

If we act, dress and live as we want to, the stereotypes will be broken.

Trends come and trends go. You will always be you.

Act like it. I dare you.

Learning to appreciate Mother Earth

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer
Column

Take a deep breath. Hold it until you're blue in the face. Learn to appreciate the next breath you take as a necessity.

Please stop thinking of the atmosphere as something that's "out there." It surrounds you even as you're reading this.

The next time you eat, realize that each bite you take is something that originated from this earth. Let go of the mindset that humanity is above all else.

Animals and plants do not serve us. Instead, we should nurture this planet and serve ourselves.

We are a part of the food chain. How can we be above anything on earth when, in fact, our very existence relies on its survival?

Who was the genius that in discovering North America thought the natives were savages?

The urgency of doing something about the condition of this earth should not be left solely to "hippies" or "tree huggers." Consider yourself lucky that someone has taken the time to care.

Who was the genius that in discovering North America thought the natives were savages? The explorers had the nerve to push Christianity on them. God, himself, undoubtedly respected the views of the native people.

Think about it. There's no way that God could have condemned an entire civilization that believes that every single living thing is sacred.

The Creator, or the Great Spirit, is the same God as the early Christians worshipped. The natives simply had a better understanding of His plan.

Please stop thinking of the atmosphere as something that's 'out there.'

Maybe we should have adapted to their beliefs. In doing so, we would not have to endure the crisis we're facing today.

When we start believing that we are, in essence, merely a part of Mother Earth, we will begin to consider this battle to be self-defence and, in turn, begin fighting for our own lives.

Procrastination a big part of college life

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer
Column

Procrastinator: it's one word that describes me best.

I know you've been there too. Think of those times when you sit down at your desk with the greatest intention of writing something meaningful and insightful. Instead, you end up being distracted by the many things that surround you every day.

I mean, look at me right now. I'm sitting here the day before deadline, trying desperately to get my work done, yet I am still watching the television and chatting with my friends on the telephone at the same time. That just might be why it takes me 10 times longer than the average person to get things done.

Right in the middle of doing an assignment, I'll think, well, maybe I should do the dishes or hmmm . . . take out the garbage. I'm kind of hungry; I need to get something to eat and then I'll come back and get this done.

Every time, the same thing happens. It's like a vicious cycle.

Think of those times when you sit down at your desk with the greatest intention of writing something meaningful and insightful.

The night before something is due, I am sitting here at my computer stressing out. Is this good enough, is it clear enough or strong enough to get my message across?

Lucky for me I work well under pressure. Do you?

Letters to the Editor

Patterson 'commends' newspaper's coverage of Grape and Wine Festival

Dear Editor:

I was reading, with pleasure, the coverage given in *Niagara News* to Niagara College's participation in the recent Grape and Wine Festival. I particularly enjoyed the photograph on the front page of the trolley and horses.

I thought that I should mention to you that Heather Reid of White Horse Carriages approached the college and offered the horse-drawn trolley for use in the parade free of charge. This was a very thoughtful offer, and I would like to acknowledge her generosity to the college.

As well, it should be noted that White Horse Carriages won the first prize trophy in the equestrian entries with the college's Niagara Knight, riding on horseback, winning the third prize trophy.

I would like to commend all the students who volunteered their time and represented the college so well by their participation in the parade and other activities during the festival.

Sincerely,
Saundra Patterson

Student from Newfoundland doesn't want hometown judged

Dear Editor:

My name is Jennifer Pickett. I am an 18-year-old first-year Journalism-Print program student from Newfoundland, living in St. Catharines while attending Niagara College at the Welland campus.

I graduated in the class of 2000 from the Jane Collins Academy in Hare Bay, Nfld.

Sound familiar? This town has been made famous for all the wrong reasons.

On Wednesday, Oct. 11, Chris Mongrain, 16, was found dead of cardiac arrest in his bed, the result of drinking antifreeze.

The following day, Neil Oram, 17, died, while 10 other young people were sick, ranging from critical to those under medical surveillance.

Why am I telling you this? I want to get the facts straight before you come to conclusions about the people in my town.

The antifreeze was stored in a pop bottle because the original container was broken.

In a drunken state, and also under the influence of drugs, the young people brought antifreeze to a house party and mixed it with pop.

It was a mistake. The young people thought it was moonshine. If you were at a party and someone handed you a drink, would you stop and think about what was in it? No. Neither did they.

I just don't want people to see the news or read the newspapers and put down these boys who were friends of mine.

It was a mistake that, if you put yourself in that same situation, you might also make.

I want these boys to be remembered for the people they were. They were kind, funny and friendly. They were more than the one mistake that cost them their lives.

I hope people will hold back their remarks about how stupid it was and not think that this is a common thing to happen in Newfoundland. It's not.

This was a sad, horrible tragedy that could have been avoided.

So next time you are at a party with your friends, please look out for each other.

Jennifer Pickett
First-year Journalism-Print

VIEWPOINTS

Taking advantage of new-found power

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer
Column

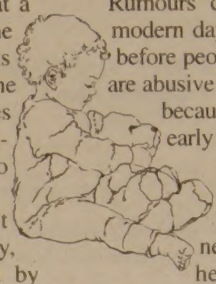
Friday the 13th was a nightmare for some parents.

No hockey-masked intruders were sawing through their doors, but they do have to worry about someone taking their children away. The Supreme Court of Canada gave the Children's Aid Society the ability to walk into homes and take children without a warrant.

The society is unstable and cannot handle the responsibility to use its new-found power in an appropriate manner.

The society and the foster care system are already under scrutiny, yet staff of the society has been given the right to take children if they suspect negligence. They don't even need proof.

As an example, a young mother is at a playground and her child falls off the swing. A self-righteous old biddy thinks the mother is negligent so she calls the Children's Aid Society. The society takes the child away without asking the mother what happens. The mother has to go to court and prove she's not negligent.



Chances are a young mother doesn't have the money for an attorney, and the child would be traumatized by the separation.

Rumours could cause problems like a modern day witch-hunt. It won't be long before people are saying their neighbours are abusive in order to get them in trouble, because they mow their lawn too early on Saturday morning.

A warrant ensured children were taken with good reason. The Children's Aid Society's new privilege is going to cause heartache for too many innocent people.

'I don't know who my father is anymore'

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer
Column

Father knows best, or does he?

I could sit here and tell you what a horrible childhood I had, but I'd be lying. I grew up with a loving family who would do anything for me and a father who set me on a pedestal, even when I didn't deserve it.

I was the typical 'daddy's little girl'

OK, you guessed it. I was a typical "daddy's little girl."

To me he was greater than God and the only person I truly relied on. I admired the way he went out of his way to help people. There was no one I respected more.

My worst fear growing up was to disappoint the man who had more faith in me than I had in myself. Now I see that I was the one who expected too much from him.

My worst fear growing up was to disappoint the man who had more faith in me than I had in myself.

Last year daddy dearest decided to become "close friends" with an old female acquaintance. I think you get the picture. He walked out on my mom, my 10-year-old brother and my six-year-old sister. Don't get me wrong: he still sees them, when he feels like it.

I don't know who my father is anymore. When I tried to talk to him the only thing he could say was "whatever." At that moment my pedestal broke.

What frustrates me the most is that my brother and sister won't have the same father that I had, the father who used to put his children above everything else. Now he just pretends to be the person he was, when in fact he's not.

To think that the man I once looked up to with pride and admiration is the same man I now look down at with disgust and disappointment, saddens me.

When I tried to talk to him the only thing he could say was 'whatever.' At that moment my pedestal broke.

There is only one thing left for me to do and that is to become the person that my dad isn't capable of being anymore, and to let my brother and sister know that they are loved no matter what.

There's always a chance that he'll wake up one day and decide that he wants to be a part of the important moments in my life. I guess only time will tell.

College student misses home, family life

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer
Column

Take the time to stop and thank your parents for everything they have done for you.

I can remember when I was younger and my parents would force me to go out in public with them. Oh, the humiliation I felt as I walked five feet ahead of them reassuring people they weren't my parents.

Now that I'm older, I have to practically beg my parents to go out somewhere with me, but they always seem to think I want them to go out with me for the use of their money.

I remember my mom taking me out to all of the so-called "cheap" stores to get all of my back-to-school clothing, still feeling that same embarrassment, not only because I was shopping in those stores, but because I was out with her. I probably didn't own a pair of brand-name running shoes until I was 12 or 13. Now Wal-Mart has become one of my favourite stores since I've moved away from home, but I wouldn't dare tell my mother that.

Being on a tight budget is hard, especially when you're trying to live a high-class life. When your bank account is down to $200 and that's all you have for the rest of the semester until your next Ontario Student Assistance Program deposit, you have to learn how to spend your money wisely.

Being away from home has been difficult for me. I miss waking up in the morning and seeing my family, my two sisters and my parents. When I'm sick all I want is for my mom to come and take care of me. I miss my dad making me breakfast every Sunday. I'm lucky if I can find time to make it myself and eat it.

My parents have been so wonderful to me. They sent me away to school, bought me a car and helped make me the person I am today. Even if I was humiliated to be seen with them when I was younger when they took me out to the "cheap" stores, they still taught me how to manage my money and that you don't need to live a costly high-class life. Maybe some of you may think that is being cheap, but I don't think it is. I think it's important to know that money doesn't make you who you are.

My parents have taught me a lot of things as I've grown, and have been there for me through every heartbreak, every bad grade and every time I just felt down.

I don't think I thank my parents enough for everything they have done for me and I don't say sorry enough, I guess, for being a brat when I was younger. If there was any way that I could re-pay my parents for everything they have done, I think I'd be paying them for the rest of my life.

I love my family a lot, and I just want them to know that I do appreciate everything.

Lazy co-workers upset other lower-paid workers

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer
Column

Let's talk about working more for less.

It's awful when you are at a job and working your butt off and the person beside you is doing nothing. You're thinking, I'm doing all this and she is paid the same to do nothing.

Some people in that situation would join the other person and slack off to the same degree, if not more, but if you're anything like me you would continue working while getting angrier and angrier.

Now think of that situation again, but this time that person doing nothing is a few years older than you are, say 18, while you are 15. This is your first job and you are happy just to be making money, until your lazy co-worker mentions how much she is paid.

You look at her and think, "There is no way you can be making more. We started the same day."

That's when you find out the government just ripped you off.

This lazy co-worker informs you that you aren't paid minimum wage as she is, but student wage. Your once-great $6.40 an hour doesn't mean anything to the $6.85 lazy is making.

Forty-five cents difference? How can your employer do that? You deserve that extra money-at least that's what I thought when I found out.

I started working when I was 15 and have stayed at the same job. We get two raises a year, so after a few years of working there I was still making less than people who just started. I was training people who were making more than I was.

Who thinks that is fair? I sure don't.

Do people over 18 need more money than younger ones?

I went to university when I was 17 and saved about $4,000 being paid a student wage. Maybe the extra 45 cents wouldn't have made much difference, but it would've made some.

Now that I make more money it doesn't affect me anymore, but there's still that bitterness because of the lazy co-worker who made more than I did because of her age.

Corrections

In the Volume 31, Issue 2 of the *Niagara News* published Oct. 13, we published a misleading headline on Page 7. The headline "Party man drinking alone affects more than one" misrepresented the column. The columnist was not drinking alone.

It is the policy of the Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

SAC

Click any of your college problems away

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

It will soon take a simple click to help solve any college-related problems facing you.

Student Services of Niagara College, together with the Student Administrative Council (SAC), is working to create an online ombudsman.

An ombudsman is a person who investigates concerns or complaints and mediates grievances or disputes. He or she is someone to act on your behalf to help you find a solution to your problem.

Brigitte Chiki, director of Student Services, says this will be a service that students can use 24 hours a day to express opinions or problems online. The concerns will still go through the Student Services office and be answered as quickly as possible.

Chiki says SAC and Student Services are hoping to have the system up and running by January 2001.

"This will be the first college to have this type of service," says Chiki, adding, "With 90 per cent or more (of students) already connected (to the Internet) they're plugging into a way they live their life already."

On this site, students can also scroll through a list of frequently asked questions.

Chiki says there will be about 100 common questions that the students can find answers to without leaving home.

More information will be released about this service in the future, she says.

No time for just sitting back, relaxing anymore

By HEATHER RUTA
Staff Writer

More work and more responsibilities mean no time to just sit back anymore.

Cindy Blanchard, 43, of Wainfleet, is the Student Administrative Council (SAC) finance administrator at the Niagara College Welland campus.

Blanchard has worked at the college for nine and a half years.

"I started off as a part-time bookkeeper. Over the years the job changed to where I had more interaction with the students and also the student council."

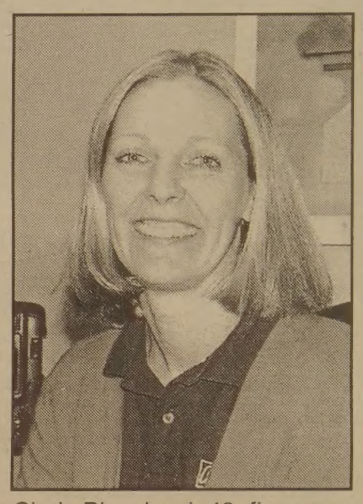
Blanchard attended Niagara College, taking some Continuing Education courses.

"I never had the ambition to work with money or finances. It just kind of happened that way. When I was 19, I worked as a bookkeeper and the job just stuck after that."

Being the finance administrator means keeping track of the money for the SAC and the After Hours pub, kitchen, and serving as the SAC office manager.

"The perks of my job is being able to participate in a lot of activities with student council, which doesn't involve me always sitting at my desk."

She said the hardest part of her job is with dealing with the three campuses (in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls). "It's hard to make sure everyone is co-ordinated and making sure they're all on the same track with each other."



Cindy Blanchard, 43, finance administrator of Welland campus student council.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

Blanchard said she enjoys the responsibility. "I love working at Niagara College because the college is so small you get to meet and know a lot of people. This I find creates more interaction between the staff and students."

Part of Blanchard's job entails working with student council and other students who volunteer for different activities.

"I do a lot of one-on-one with the students who come in looking for help or just wanting to help out," she said, adding, it is rewarding "seeing the student council working together as a team and giving their all to provide more social activities for the students."

"More importantly," she said, "seeing them start and finish a project and knowing that whether it's one student or 50 that participated . . . just watching it all come together makes me happy.

"Part of me regrets that after high school I tried to juggle a full-time job and attend night school. I think it would have made things easier if I had only one thing to focus on.

"With the expansion of student council and the opening of the Glendale campus (in Niagara-on-the-Lake), I am getting more involved in everything. It's not just the financial aspect of it anymore."

Beer-chugging comic succumbs to cheerleading students' challenge

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Getting the comic drunk seemed to be the theme at Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night held Oct. 18 at the After Hours pub.

Comedy night at the Niagara College pub in Welland is quite frequently about laughing and drinking, but really is it about laughing at drinking. That was the case as the audience fed funny man Tim Nutt many a drink.

The night opened shortly before 10 p.m. with a beautifully done, completely out-of-tune rendition of the Canadian national anthem.

After Hours was reasonably full as the first comic hit the stage. Full at Niagara's Comedy Nights doesn't necessarily mean a good night. It usually just means more crowd noise to destroy the ambiance that a comic works so hard to create.

Such was the case this eve.

Nutt, a native of Vancouver, delivered his jokes with his gruff voice and crowd-warming sincerity.

His comedy ranged from great jokes about all the problems beer can solve to the absurdity of camping. His routine solicited only a few laughs from the "content to listen" crowd.

However, when one audience member offered Nutt one of the $1 drafts, that littered the tables around the pub, it suddenly became a popular thing to do.

After finishing his act, he was bombarded with beer after beer with chants of "chug" from the audience. Though claims of his Irish heritage should have protected him, he still had to stumble from the stage, but not before introducing the night's headliner.

James Cunningham, a University of Toronto graduate, hit the stage and was ready to combat the eagerly waiting crowd, which was encouraging comic drunkenness.

Immediately winning favour with Niagara students by stating Niagara College is "one of the best colleges" to come to, he continued to ward off hecklers from the crowd with his quick wit and well-targeted comebacks.

Even with an overly noisy audience, Cunningham managed to coerce a member of the audience to get up on stage and display his backend for the crowd.

After being offered beer, in much the same manner as Nutt, Cuningham made clear to the audience that he was the driver and couldn't drink.

He said "the death of comedy is due to Niagara College." The joke rang true not because of the encouragment of drinking from the audience, but from the lack of attention and laughter from a crowd of people who were supposed to be enjoying what were, in all honesty, great jokes.

Concluding his bit, Cunningham left the stage with grace saying, "Niagara is one of the biggest party venues."

It may be, but with an audience that seems more content to chat amongst themselves, it is a wonder comics continue to return to After Hours week after week.

Protecting your health.

Barbara Beattie works with her detector dog Rookie and her colleagues at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. They help stop forbidden items from entering Canada that could damage our plants and animals or contaminate our food supply. This is just one of many services aimed at protecting the health of all Canadians.

To learn more about the hundreds of services available from the Government of Canada:
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- Visit **www.canada.gc.ca**
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Canada

LIFE ON THE STREET

Stranded on the streets

Bill Stephenson tries resting on broken glass in a parking lot near Downtown St. Catharines.
Photo by Scott Thomson

By BILL STEPHENSON
Staff Writer

I was laughing to cover up my fears.

The car ride to St. Catharines was silent, except for the pleas from my peers. I didn't know anyone who wanted me to go, but I felt that if I didn't go, I would be giving up because of my own fears.

At least I was with Scott, someone whom I knew I could trust. He and I met at the beginning of last year and had been close since. This "mission" was his idea, so I assumed he had some concept of what to do. We were going to live among the homeless.

But what do homeless people do? Where do they sleep? And how do they eat?

We discovered the best way to eat is to consume food. However, we had no money, so we sat outside the Pizza Pizza on St. Paul Street. We were close to food. I suppose it really came down to who would ask first.

"Spare some change for some food?" I asked of citizens who walked by. I immediately felt guilty. I didn't need this money. I really do have a home, but I was hungry.

For about 15 minutes we had no success. Then I saw our saviour. He righteously wore a gray sweater and blue jeans. He approached quickly but not aggressively and handed us a piece of pizza cut down the middle for two.

We thanked him. We praised him. We loved him. I had never seen such a compassionate act in all my life. This gave us much confidence. I now knew we would be able to eat again. We did.

Later, we piqued the curiosity of just the right individual. Bones by name, panhandler by profession. He had a place to stay, he told us. But then why did he panhandle? This was an answer we never received.

He recommended we sit in front of the Royal Bank, on St. Paul Street. Bones said the cops couldn't bust us for panhandling there because it's on community property.

Bones didn't dress like us. I looked like s***. He wore sunglasses, a bandana, a leather jacket with Kurt Cobain airbrushed on the back, black jeans and leather boots. He also carried a guitar. I'm not sure what kind it was but it looked new and shiny. However, the appearance of his instrument was in deep contrast to his skills. This man couldn't play guitar to save his life. I felt as if my ears were being stabbed with pitchforks.

Every time he played it was the same thing. He was obviously an act designed to "steal" money from the taxpayers. It was a joke, as he tried to pick up ladies while looking pathetic. His signature line was "If I followed you home like a lost little puppy dog, would you keep me?" It makes me sick to think about him. I was honestly surprised anybody gave him money.

People gave him $5 bills. We had each made minimum wage in less than an hour. Joke or not, Bones knew what he was doing.

The three of us ate pitas and drank Coke.

Bones was too much. He had offered us the chance to stay at his place for a few hours to sleep, but not even this act of generosity could keep Scott and me attached to him.

He had been holding onto the money we made. We told him we needed some money for more pop and food, and then we left him there looking lost and hopeless. I can still remember that ugly grin and big chin.

With Bones and St. Paul Street behind us, we searched for a place to sleep. Nowhere could we find beds. There weren't any places with shelter. It was cold outside, and there weren't any warm places.

Scott remembered a park we had seen while walking along Tasker Street. We decided to check it out.

Our walk there was one of desperation. My legs moved mechanically, for I had to sleep. My feet hurt and I walked with a limp. I was sure I was losing circulation in my toes. I wasn't sure if they were bleeding.

The park was deserted. We had heard children playing there earlier, making feel a little safer about sleeping there. Safer or not, I could barely keep my eyes open.

There was no other place to go. I couldn't fathom the idea of walking again. We settled in on the equipment, and I closed my eyes.

"Bill, wake up!"

"Some guy just scared the hell out of me."

"Who was he?" I asked Scott.

"I don't know. He took a piss over there, and then started walking over here. He had a cigarette in his mouth so I guess he was going to have a smoke. He was about five feet away from us. He looked me dead in the eye and then sprinted the other way. Maybe he's going to bring back some friends to get us."

This was the turning point in our night. We went from sleep to insomnia. We were in trouble.

I know Scott didn't sleep from that point on. I slept a little but was awakened by every single sound. Even when Scott moved his feet I awoke.

Others passed through the park that night. Their movements all had the same effect on us.

In the morning we sat in a coffee shop and warmed up. We sat on barstools facing a large mirror, so all we could see would be our own faces. Scott hit rock bottom last night, and I could see the pain in his eyes. He talked about going home. I didn't want to go.

Friday, 8:35 a.m. — The best meal I've ever had. We ate bacon, eggs, toast and home fries. The pain from a terrible night's sleep was slowly wearing off, but Scott still talked of abandoning our adventure, and I couldn't talk him out of it.

We arrived and registered at the Salvation Army Booth Centre, also referred to as the "Sally Ann" by many of its residents. An old British lady at the Diabetes Centre had given us directions there. She spent roughly 15 minutes on the phone trying to help us out. She referred to us as "transients" — a euphemism — when describing us on the phone.

We ate lunch at the Sally Ann. A lady at the front desk gave us food tickets. We walked down the pale white staircase. My hand touched the railing and it felt greasy. I casually wiped my hand on my shirt. Lunch consisted of corn beef on rye, salad, a cheeseburger, juice and carrot cake. Everyone ate in silence. Scott says he found it depressing, whereas I was quite amused. It just seemed that everyone is an enemy. Why not try to make the most of a dismal situation?

Back to the street we went. We ended up walking behind a lady, a normal middle-aged lady. She kept looking back over her shoulder. She did this maybe five times before she sat on a bench, and we walked past. Scott thinks she sat down so we would be forced to walk past her. Was she scared of us? Did she fear we would harm her? I wonder.

The next setting we sought refuge at was "Sewage River." The walk there was about half an hour. Scott said it looked like something you'd see in Vietnam. It is surrounded by trees. The water is gray and flows from several pipes located along the banks. We were sitting on a cement platform that extends roughly seven feet out above the water. Shattered glass is scattered everywhere.

3:23 p.m. — I passed out at Sewage River. Luckily Scott was there when I opened my eyes. He says I was out for about 45 minutes. I didn't remember my dreams. I don't know if I still want to.

We left Sewage River and walked on a gravel path through some bushes for maybe 45 minutes. We had absolutely no idea where we were. Scott still talked to me about going home. It was as if he was trying to convince me to go with him. I wish I could read his diary.

Eventually we wound up at the coffee shop. We sat in front of the same mirror and were silent. Here's an excerpt from my diary: "I'm so tired and my eyes are shaded black around the outside. My nails are long and dirty and I smell worse than the gas station bathroom where I filled up my water bottle. My face is greasy. I haven't shaved in days and my neck is itchy. My feet hurt now more than ever. The end of my toes slowly go numb when I walk. Numb, but hurt like hell. My back tells me to lie down but the ground's too cold. My skin itches. The seniors behind me are talking about death. This hurts my hopes. I don't want to sleep at the shelter, but I don't want another cold night on the street. I can't back out. It's not me. I'll vomit from sickness before I leave."

Scott kept talking crazy. All day he talked about leaving. Even after we ate a great meal at the Sally Ann, he still wanted to leave.

He left.

Bill Stephenson, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, sits in front of a Salvation Army centre on Church Street.
Photo by Scott Thomson

Scott Thomson (left) and Bill Stephenson on Night 2 of their trip.
Submitted photo

Continued in Nov. 10 edition of Niagara News

TRICK OR TREAT

Teacher conducting seminar on ghosts

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer

On Oct. 28, Dr. Peter Sacco is conducting a seminar at the college on ghosts, spirits and poltergeists.

He produced a television special, Hauntings in Niagara, which began airing on Oct. 26 and will run for two weeks on Cogeco Cable 10.

Sacco, 34, of Niagara Falls, teaches all of the college's Continuing Education courses in the Criminal Psychology program, as well as two courses on understanding the paranormal. He says his classes on the paranormal are "pretty much X-File courses."

Sacco says his students are the most enjoyable part of teaching Continuing Education.

"(A teacher) is only as wise as the students that he has, and the ability they have to listen to their students," says Sacco. "I find that even though I have all this education, it's minimal compared to the stories and the insights and the experiences that my students have."

Sacco is a developmental psychologist and a professor at Niagara University in New York State. Sacco also teaches at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Sacco says his interest in the paranormal began when he first started watching the television show The Night Stalker as a child. "(It's the show) the X-Files is based on. (X-Files creator) Chris Carter liked it too. It's interesting because you live every day in the boring, redundant type of thing, and I'm into 'well, what if?' I like to look at it scientifically to try to understand this kind of stuff."

Sacco says he started teaching about the paranormal "for fun, more than anything. I wanted to do it once, just for fun, to see if people were really interested in the stuff. Also (I wanted) to learn from them (the students) and their own experiences with this kind of stuff, and it was very popular."

Hauntings in Niagara, Sacco says, looks at five allegedly haunted sites in the Niagara region. The sites include Fort George and the Screaming Tunnels, in Niagara Falls.

"In a couple of the sites, we did re-enactments, as far as what the urban legend was about. Then we looked at the scientific explanation for each site." Sacco says Hauntings in Niagara will air twice on Halloween night.

Sacco says the seminar will explain a lot in a "fun way. It will look at the differences of what a ghost is, what an aberration is and what a poltergeist is. We'll look at some pictures; we'll look at some film on this stuff and just tell stories.

"The seminar is more for avid ghost hunters, or people who have seen ghosts and want to come out and get an idea of what it is that they've seen and what a ghost is."

Haunting in Niagara "was done, more or less, for fun," says Sacco. "(We're) also doing it to make people aware of the historical landmarks that are in Niagara Falls, (as well as) the fact that they're haunted. The sites have a lot of historical connotation, and it's great to make people aware that these places are still around and to go and visit them."

Sacco says he is a "very big skeptic" but believes some of the stories could hold some truth. "Wherever a legend comes out of, there is usually some iota of truth. Not necessarily a ghost, but rather something tragic happened at that site, and then people said, 'Well, what if that person haunted the place?'

"It's like that game Telephone that kids play. There's 30 kids in a circle, and you whisper in a kid's ear, and then by the time the story gets to the other side it's changed. I believe that's what happens here. Sometimes the facts get misconstrued. Somebody looks at it from their own bias and highlight certain aspects of the story and omit certain other details and things get started that way."

ESL students experience 'ghost tour' at Fort George

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

It was a dark, yet unstormy night at Fort George. The wind blew cold as we walked into the unknown.

Students of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Niagara College's Welland campus got a pre-Halloween night out adventure at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Ghost Tour was a unique experience for many of the students. The tour was arranged by Jackie Penman, the co-ordinator of social events for ESL students. A total of 35 students and two staff members joined in the event.

The bus left Niagara College at 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 18, and arrived at Fort George at 8 p.m.

The tour started right away, headed by the tour guide, known only as Luke.

The tour included walking past the gates at Fort George and into one of the old army service quarters and then into a dark tunnel, under the guidance of Luke and his sole lantern.

Luke amused and scared the students with haunting tales of the fort, making them feel as if there really might be a ghost jumping out at them.

The tour lasted over an hour and ended where it started, at the bus.

What did the students think of the tour? Veronika Cedeño, 25, from Venezuela, an ESL student, said, "Nice, but I didn't see any ghost."

Miriam Solana, 18, from Mexico, said, "It was very exciting. We didn't believe in ghosts." Solana went on the tour with her friends Anna Romero and Mari sol Cruz, both 18, from Mexico.

Rosalynn Figveroa, 23, an ESL student from Venezuela, said, "It is scary. The place is very good."

The tour seemed to have been a great success with the students, who then returned to the less haunting surroundings of Niagara College.

As part of continuing entertainment activities set for ESL students, they will be having a Halloween potluck party at After Hours Pub tonight. The party starts at 7:30 p.m. Participants are asked to dress in ghoulish costumes.

English as a Second Language students gathered at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake for a ghost tour.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

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TIME: DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 P.M.
LOCATION: PLANET HOLLYWOOD, NIAGARA FALLS

Annual Halloween party to be held on Oct. 27

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

The Welland Recreation Projects Association is hosting its annual Halloween party tonight.

Rose Smith, association chair, says it is a "worthwhile event for the whole family."

The event runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., for children ages five to 12.

Parents and children are encouraged to dress up for the party being held at the Welland Market Square, on the corner of Division and Cross Streets.

There will be pony rides, grab bags for the youngsters, and an hour-long magic show performed by T.J., the clown, at the free-of-charge event.

Last year more than 300 people attended the city-funded event, which has been held annually for about 30 years.

The Welland Recreation Projects Association is also involved in the Santa Claus parade, winter carnival and summer concerts in the park.

The next association-sponsored event will be Toys for Tots, on Nov. 4.

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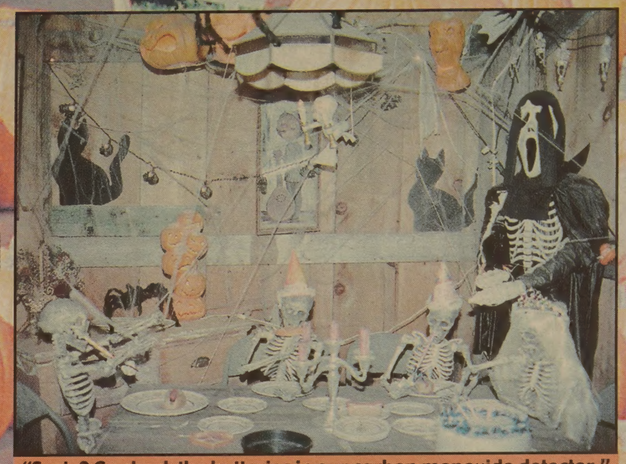
HALLOWEEN!

Photos by Scott Rosts & Kevin Hartford

The search for the perfect pumpkin continues at the Howell Family Pumpkin Farm at 2878 Holland Rd. in Thorold.

Winnicki's Pumpkin Patch at 840 Sumbler Rd. in Fenwick.



"Susie? Go check the batteries in our carbon monoxide detector."

Scarecrows relax after being created at Pumpkinville 2000, held at Happy Rolph Animal Farm at 2 Northrup in St. Catharines .

A cheerful-looking bat guards a corn field.

A scary Halloween demon in a moment of quiet reflection.

"What the hay?"

A Charlie Brown-less pumpkin patch.

TRICK OR TREAT

SAC hosting party at Planet Hollywood

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

It's the place to be on Halloween night.

For those of you who won't be hitting the streets begging for treats, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) is throwing a Halloween bash at Planet Hollywood in Niagara Falls.

Tickets are $10 each. Food will be provided and, of course, there will be "cheap drinks," says Glen Murray, SAC president at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

"If we can sell 400 tickets, they'll close the whole place down for us," he says. Because of this, SAC asks that students purchase their tickets as soon as possible so proper arrangements can be made.

Planet Hollywood will be supplying door prizes, while SAC will be giving away a cash prize for the best costume.

"It should be a great time for everyone."

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. to start the night of dancing and fun.

Tickets can be purchased at the SAC offices on any of the three campuses.

People sometimes forget Halloween history

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

Goblins, witches and vampires are just a few beings you'll be seeing soon.

Halloween festivities are just around the corner but what about the history of this day?

Halloween was the name given to the evening of Oct. 31, preceding the Christian feast of Hallowmas, or All Saints' Day. This is a festival celebrated on Nov. 1 in the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches in honour of God and all his saints, known and unknown.

The customs connected with Halloween are said to originate from the Druids. They believed that on Oct. 31, Samhain, the lord of the dead, called upon hosts of evil spirits. To fend off these spirits the Druids lit fires on Halloween.

Halloween descends from the ancient Celts, originating around 1200 BC. The Celts saw this last evening of their year as a promising time for examining the future. The Celts also believed that spirits of the dead revisited their homes that night.

Such simple rituals as jack-o-lanterns or bobbing for apples originated long ago as well. After the Romans conquered Britain, they added these festivities on Nov. 1 to the Roman harvest festival, in honour of Pomona, goddess of the fruits and trees.

Devil grants 7 wishes to make dream come true

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Picture god with breasts and say that won't Bedazzle you.

The movie Bedazzled stars Brendan Fraser and Elizabeth Hurley in a satirical love story about a man who wants a woman and about the devil who will grant him seven wishes to make his dream come true.

Elliot, played by Fraser, is inept, hapless and slightly nerdy. He is consumed by unrequited love when he strikes a deal with the devil. If she will help him get Alison Gardner, a co-worker, whom he has had a crush on for a long time, she can have his soul. Frances O'Connor plays Alison.

He quickly learns to be careful what he wishes for when he asks to become rich and powerful and to marry Alison, only to discover he has become a drug lord.

The movie Bedazzled stars Elizabeth Hurley and Brendan Fraser.

Photo by 20th Century Fox

After escapade upon escapade, Elliot realizes that the devil is purposely putting these obstacles in the way of his desires and turning them into a living hell.

The devil, whose plan is not to scare Elliot but to get him to give up his freedom, does so by influencing Elliot and his decisions about his wishes, all the while knowing what will happen in the end.

Harold Ramis, director/producer/screenwriter, says he was trying to get away from the traditional notions of good and evil and make the devil not a villainous character but just naughty. He wanted her to be beautiful, sophisticated and much worldlier than her counterpart, Elliot.

Ramis wanted to show the real power women have achieved in society and thought a female devil was appropriate, and who better to portray that than Hurley?

Much more appealing to the eye were the kinky outfits worn by Hurley. Red is the colour most associated with the devil, so Hurley and designer Deena Appel worked together to create a character similar to Cruella de Ville and a softcore porn star.

The devil's wardrobe defined her, as she had to be different than Elliot and still be able to show her power over him without looking too frail and weak. Mission accomplished Ramis!

Bedazzled helps to remind us that there is a little of Elliot and even the devil in us all. Dante once said that heaven and hell are right here on Earth. Ramis summed it up nicely by saying we make the choice in the way we live our lives. So true, so true!

College radio station hosting Halloween party

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

The moon is dark, and there's a chill in the air. It's Halloween eve and you've got nothing to do.

Niagara College's campus radio station, 90.1 CRNC, is hosting a Halloween party at the Temple Club in Welland.

The party is on Tuesday, Oct. 31, with doors opening at 8 p.m.

Tickets cost $4 in advance or $5 at the door and can be purchased in the Voyageur wing or out front of the fishbowl at the Welland campus.

Prizes will be awarded for best prizes so put on your most frightening face.

All money raised at this event will be used by 90.1 CRNC.

The Temple Club is at 268 East Main St.

Children celebrating

By HILARY TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The children of the Niagara College Child Care Centre marched through the Welland campus on Oct. 18 as part of the celebrations for Week of the Child.

The parade was one of the many activities planned during the week, which ran from Oct. 16 to Oct. 20. The Teletubbies, Barney, Trevor and his trombone, juggler and comedian Craig Douglas and Welland Mayor Dick Reuter participated.

Although delayed 20 minutes by traffic on the QEW Douglas, when he finally arrived, amazed the small but enthusiastic audience of all ages. Ohhh's and ahhh's erupted from the crowd as he juggled bowling pins while riding a six-foot tall unicycle.

The week came to a close last Friday with the drawing for the raffle basket. Four-year-old Sawyer from the Child Care Centre pulled the winning ticket naming Kim Lambardo. Pat Eversden, manager of the Child Care Centre, says money raised from ticket sales will go back into the centre.

Children at the Child Care Centre march through the Welland campus to celebrate Week of the Child.

Photo by Scott Thomson

CONVERSATIONS

Response of volunteers overwhelming

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

It's about being a friend to a homesick international student at Niagara College.

This year's Conversation Partner program has received more Canadian student applicants than it has foreign students needing a partner. The program is designed to help Canadian and foreign students meet and develop a friendship.

"We try to get Canadian students to get together for about 50 minutes a week," says Christie Salmon, 30, an English as a Second Language teacher.

The program has been operating since 1992.

Salmon says it is easier in September to find more students who are interested than in January.

Salmon, who is overseeing the program this year, says foreign students are "very homesick. Their language is different. Their home-stay families are weird (to them). Even going to the library or renting a video is strange to them."

Salmon says Canadian students who participate are not tutors; they are other people to talk to.

Canadian students who participate are invited to international student events, such as potlucks with food cooked by the foreign students, parties at the After Hours pub and trips to Toronto.

Salmon suggests Canadian students try being "patient and understanding" with the English of foreign students and "use more body language."

20 questions answered by Niagara student

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Ron Robichaud, 20, of Bowmanville, Ont., is a second-year student in Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program. He is specializing in production.

Q: Name your favourite restaurant.

A: In Welland it would be MT Bellies, I guess.

Q. Name six of your favourite songs.

A: *Enter Sandman* by Metallica, *Independent Woman* by Destiny's Child, *Why Don't You Get a Job* by Offspring, *Uncle F****r* from the South Park movie soundtrack, *Come On Over* by Christina Aguilera and *Here With Me* by Dido.

Q. What is your favourite quote or line from a song?

A: Way down yonder on the Chattahoochee, it gets hotter than a hoochie coochie.

Q. What was/is your favourite children's program?

A: Bobby's World.

Q. Who, or what, always makes you laugh?

A: My friend Paul from home.

Q. What was the worst job you ever had?

A: Custodial engineer at Wilmot Creek. I still have nightmares of that.

Q. What was the bravest thing you ever did?

A: I am not a brave person.

Q. What is your greatest achievement?

A: Going to college.

Q: What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

A: My mom buys stuff for me when she doesn't have to . . . from the kindness of her heart, all the time.

RON ROBICHAUD

Q: What is the most embarrassing moment of your life?

A: I was coming to school one day, and my 1985 Reliant K was in the process of going over the huge speed bumps my high school had, and my exhaust separated from underneath the car, so it sounded like a Sherman tank. Everyone was staring at me.

Q: Who is your idol or hero?

A: My ego is my own inspiration in life.

Q. What is your everyday car?

A: I don't own a car.

Q: If you were a car, what car would you be?

A: A (Dodge) Neon, short n' cute and mainstream.

Q. What car, cost no object would you like to drive for the next 12 months?

A: The new VW Beetle.

Q: What did you want to be when you grew up?

A: I never had career plans up until high school.

Q: When did you decide to go into your current career?

A: I kinda had an interest in Grade 8, but not until high school.

Q: What was your New Year's resolution?

A: I didn't have a New Year's resolution.

Q: If you could have dinner with anyone, past or present, who would it be and why?

A: Past, Phil Hartman and Chris Farley. They had so much potential, it's tragic they died so soon. Present, Pamela Anderson, just to tell her what an under-appreciated actress she is.

Q. If you could go for a vacation anywhere, where would you go?

A: Australia.

Q: What is the meaning of life?

A: Be born, live, die.

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NIAGARA NEWS
20 Years Ago

October 20, 1980

Zarko Petkovic, an instructor of criminology and sociology at Niagara College, returned to his native Yugoslavia for six weeks this summer.

Margaret Atwood, renowned poet, novelist and critic, read some of her works on Oct. 15, 1980 to more than 100 people in the Secord Room.

The Niagara College golf team finished fifth of 17 teams in the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association golf championship.

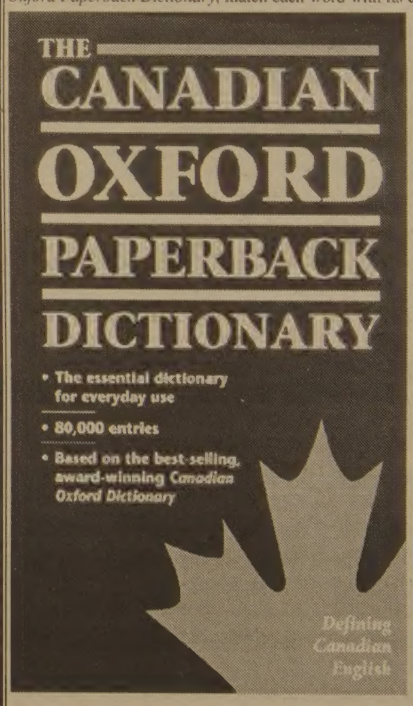
November 3, 1980

Student Administrative Council's legal expenses have risen $2,000 because of litigation involving a business student who was blinded in one eye by a beer bottle at last year's Year End Bash.

Niagara College Dental Clinic has organized a dental hygiene clinic for children between the ages of four and 12.

ENTER for a chance to WIN!

Based on the award-winning, best-selling *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, *The Canadian Oxford Paperback Dictionary* is the essential dictionary for everyday use, featuring 80,000 entries and over 1,800 uniquely Canadian words and senses. For a chance to win a copy of *The Canadian Oxford Paperback Dictionary*, match each word with its uniquely Canadian definition.



Match the words below with its uniquely Canadian definition!

1) bunny hug	a) fur trim around the hood of a parka
2) sunburst	b) underpants
3) ketaine	c) a hamburger
4) gotch	d) crazy, foolish
5) nip	e) in poor taste, tacky
6) spinny	f) a hooded sweatshirt

• Draw to be made Nov. 1
• Winners responsible to arrange pick up of prize.
• 3 winners will be accepted from all correct entries received prior to midnight-Oct. 31
• Winner permits use of name and/or photo to be published in the Niagara News

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Send your answers to:
niagaranews@canada.com
or fax: 905-736-6003

DEADLINE for entries Oct. 31/00

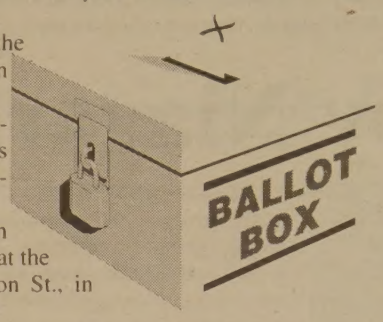
CANDIDATES FACEOFF

Welland electors face multitude of choices

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Voters in Welland, this is your heads up regarding the municipal election being held on Nov. 13.

The race is beginning to heat up, with candidates making themselves known throughout town with their banners and posters and leaflets.



This year is your first year to access all the candidates, dates and times for the election on the Internet.

Not only does the city have its own website but some of the individual candidates have decided to go on-line and have developed their own sites for the public.

Advance poll voting will happen from Nov. 4 to Nov. 8 between 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 77 Division St., in Welland.

Nov. 13 is voting day. Polls will be open at 16 locations in the city from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Mayor of Welland
Forster, Cindy
McIntyre, Charles A.
Reuter, Dick
Watt, John

City Councillors (Ward 1)
Alakas, Rick
Beaudoin, Dan
MacInnis, Jim
Van Vliet, Leo

(Ward 2)
Albano, Nick
Campion, Frank
Dmytrow Bilboe, Nancy
Makuloluwa, Lank
Spadafora, Joe

(Ward 3)
Belcastro, Mike
Boyer, Ron
Brenner, Peter
Foote, William
Mastroianni, John
Oakes, Garth
Silvestri, John
Yakubowski, David

(Ward 4)
Fortier, Dan
Irvine, John J.
MacLellan, John

(Ward 5)
Baiano, David
Bellantino, Vincent
Dzugan, Mark
Grenier, Dianne
Marcello, George
Tufts, Larry

(Ward 6)
Eybel, Toni
Larouche, Jim
Mester, Les
O'Dell, Sandy

Regional Niagara
Marshall, George (acclaimed)
Muir, Bob (acclaimed)

School Boards – English
District School Board of Niagara,
Reilly, Don (acclaimed)
Niagara Catholic District School Board,
Belcastro, John (acclaimed)
French Language District School Board for South Western and Central Ontario
Marion, Ronald (acclaimed)
South Central French Catholic District School Board
Paroyan, Monique (acclaimed)

Nine years counting, Dick Reuter wants to take his seat as Welland mayor into fourth term

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

With politics being as chaotic as it is, it's nice to step back and meet candidates and learn what they stand for before you go to the polls.

Welland Mayor Dick Reuter is running again for mayor after having already served nine years in office.

"I started on my political path with a task force which I chaired and presented to the last mayor back in 1991. It covers seven approaches to building and maintaining a strong community self-image, economic development, retirement investing, infrastructure, tourism, canal development and the revitalization of downtown," says Reuter.

'(Welland) . . . is definitely a force to be reckoned with.'

Reuter said when he first got into office, "Unemployment was high, sitting at 20 per cent, the lowest in the region and below normal for the province, the community had low self-esteem and that we needed to be proactive to attract tourism."

Reuter said the first job he wanted to tackle was the overall infrastructure. So the city spent $40 million on a new sewer system and new waterlines; another $20 million was spent on improving roads.

Reuter said his next task would be the improvement of downtown, so a new economic development officer was hired to help with the expansion.

This has seen John Deere company and Gen-Cor, a parts and construction factory, grow, and new technologies worth millions invested in the community.

"I looked at a variety of areas in the community that needed to have development," said Reuter.

His platform for office in 1991 was to promote the city to the rest of the region and to the world. He said he promised no increase in taxes, a promise he has abided by and a course of action he plans to continue.

He said he wanted to put his business skills to work, so he has introduced new companies and industries to this area, helping to bring in millions of dollars as well.

"No one else in the region was doing this, but I started a joint venture with Whiting Corp. in China for them to expand their products over here and build factories, and they did. Now there are delegates over there that also want in on this venture," said Reuter.

"I went to Japan last fall with the prime minister regarding a trade mission. There were three mayors chosen plus eight premiers, and three territorial leaders plus 200 businessmen as well. I have also gone to China on two occasions regarding business missions for our city," said Reuter.

"The money being invested by these international businesses is going to help rebuild the arenas, the courthouse, as well as to cover the development of downtown and the sewers. It has also gone to help build 1,000 homes in the last decade," said Reuter.

'I don't see my job as political but rather public service.'

Reuter said he has been extremely successful with the city's economic development and in accomplishing a lot of the programs he set forth to do.

"The city has improved its stature in the region and is definitely a municipality to be reckoned with. We are also the second ranked in the region for number of building permits," said Reuter.

Reuter said one endeavour he had hoped to finish was the replacement of the municipal buildings but "naysayers" have dragged that one out.

Aside from his political life, Reuter is a happily married man, now going on 33 years, to his wife Bona. "I am very lucky to have someone so supportive. We are partners in this marriage as well as a municipal partner. She never lets me get away with anything. She comes with me to all weekend functions. Our marriage can be summed up by saying you get two for the price of one. My wife is involved in every aspect of the election and municipal activities."

In the little free time Reuter gets, he said he enjoys downhill skiing, working in the garden and being outside. He said he also loves to travel when he can.

"I have been everywhere with work as well as pleasure. We have been all over the world and presently have a cottage on Georgian Bay," Reuter said.

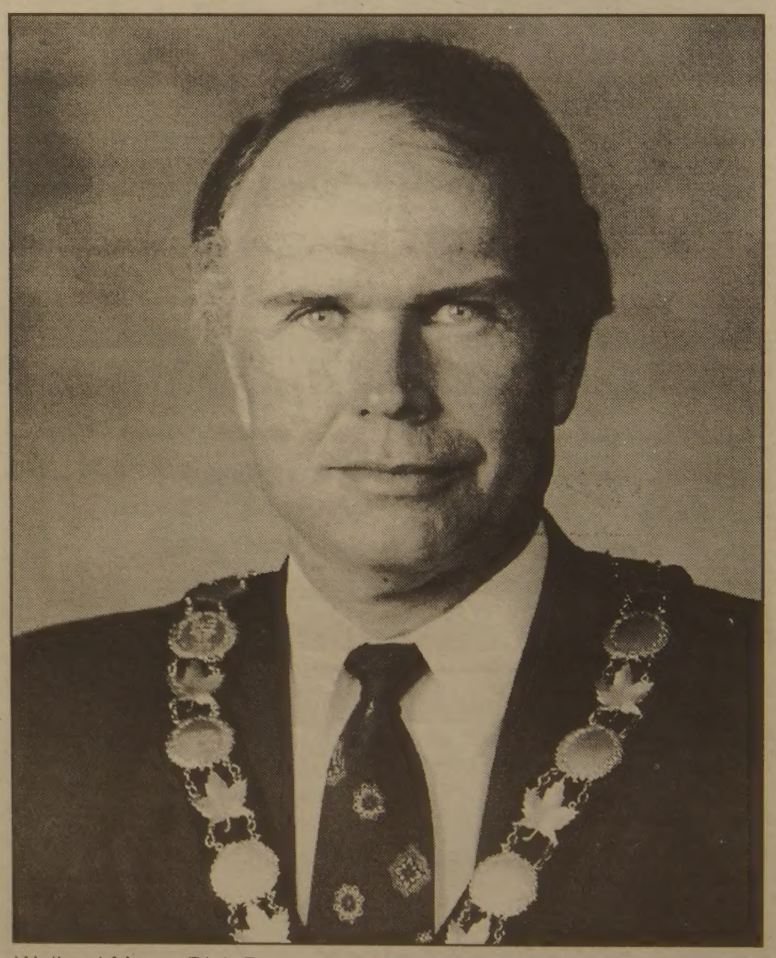
The couple has three sons, Jeff, 30, Greg, 25, and Brian, 19.

"I never thought of my sons getting into politics. I am very proud of them no matter what field they are in."

"I don't see my job as a political job, but rather as a public service worker, and even yet, I don't really feel it's a job. I enjoy what I do and people in this community, for the most part, have supported what I have done in the last nine years. People recognize how we've moved along in the last three years and how we will move forward into the next three years."

"Nine years ago the city and the college were on opposite ends of the spectrum. I've been a longtime supporter of Niagara College, but the college wanted to sell off the land and leave, and the city was falling apart. In the last nine years I have tried to turn that around and do my best to make this community look good locally as well as internationally, and I don't think I have done too bad a job."

Election day is Nov. 13.



Welland Mayor Dick Reuter is seeking a fourth term.
Submitted photo

CANDIDATES FACEOFF

Leftists afraid to see light of Day

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer
Column

The arrival of Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day to the House of Commons has been greeted with a great deal of hostility from leftists who fear the emergence of a fundamentalist element in Canadian politics.

The party claims to practice a new brand of politics. However, in Day's televised interviews, he's proved he can be as evasive as any U.S. presidential candidate.

In many ways, if elected, the Alliance would only pick up where the Liberals left off. They would continue cutting social programs, in true Liberal style, while throwing excessive amounts of money at corporations who collectively owe billions of dollars in deferred taxes.

However, while fiscally the equivalent of the two other business parties, the Alliance is more socially conservative than its Liberal and Tory counterparts.

For instance, as a member of the Alberta cabinet, Day fought to have abortion services removed from public funding. He asked Ralph Klein, premier of Alberta, to bring the issue to a referendum. Klein refused.

Whenever Day is questioned by the media about his controversial stands on issues such as abortion and gay rights, he starts babbling about "people's initiatives" and referendums. Day claims his personal beliefs don't matter. As a public servant, he says, he would only do what the people want.

First of all, I believe any politician, including Day, can not help but be influenced by his or her own personal beliefs and values. Day just wants to keep some of his beliefs hidden, knowing how politically unpopular they are.

Secondly, I question the Alliance's commitment to do only as the people wish. They may accept community initiatives, but only when the suggestion coincides with the party's own ideological viewpoint.

For example, I highly doubt the Canadian Alliance would hold a referendum on the decriminalization of marijuana. Why not? For years, surveys have indicated that it's what most Canadians want.

A friend of mine said Day "could make Canada a dangerous place to be gay or lesbian."

The thought of a government allowing bigotry towards homosexuals is a very real threat to the liberty of Canada. I wouldn't want to give the Canadian Alliance the power to roll back individual freedoms and several years of progress on these issues. It's just not a risk I'm willing to take on Nov. 27.

Handley's campaign speeds into Thorold

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

Jim Handley, 39, is one of two Thorold mayoral candidates.

Handley says his main concern if he is elected on Nov. 13 is to create sewer and water lines along the Highway 20 Corridor. This cross-peninsula highway now runs through agricultural properties and undeveloped business areas.

He says there are no water and sewer lines and he'd like to build them to spur economic development, such as a small hotel, gas stations and Wendy's and McDonald's restaurants.

He says he'd rather have amalgamation of services than amalgamation of cities. The provincial government, in an effort to downsize the number of municipal government councils and elected representatives, is pressuring for regionalized governments larger than currently exist.

JIM HANDLEY

"I am dead against amalgamation. I haven't seen any benefit from amalgamated cities. The (level of) services such as garbage pick up, street cleaning and snow plowing have gone down. If one town doesn't have an engineer, they could swap services for something the town with the engineer doesn't have. Taxes never go down with amalgamation."

In May, Handley attended a course at Brock University in St. Catharines called Conflict Management and Arbitration Peer Mediation, to prepare for his political career if he becomes mayor. He attended a Superhost Ontario one-day seminar regarding issues in the tourism industry, such as where hospitality money is coming from, where the money is going, how many hotels were created and how many jobs were established.

'I am dead against amalgamation. I haven't seen any benefit from amalgamated cities. The (level of) services such as garbage pick up, street cleaning and snow plowing have gone down.'

When Handley isn't working at his business, Niagara Food and Beverage Consulting Services, he plays pool on Monday, darts on Wednesday and hockey on Thursday.

In the summertime, he says he "loves to fish" and works on racecars at the Merrittville Speedway in St. Catharines for the Harvey's-Swiss Chalet racecar team. He has been working on racecars for 14 years.

Handley began his business in 1999 and has been self-employed since 1988 working in various fields.

He is engaged to be married next year to Sally, 38. Between them they have three children, his stepdaughter Nina, 17, stepson Eric, 17, and his son TJ, 18.

Davidson ensures independent Thorold

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

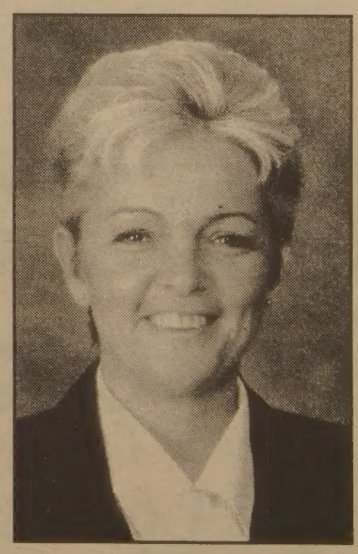
Robin Davidson is one of two mayoral candidates for the city of Thorold.

Davidson started in politics as a regular citizen expressing concern about an auto wrecker wanting to expand facilities along Lake Gibson. She helped create the Beaverdams Ratepayers Association, a network of neighbours with similar concerns.

Successful in stopping the wrecker's expansion, Davidson began to regularly attend municipal council meetings. "After the issue was complete, I had a really strong interest in council because of other issues."

Davidson has two positions at ComCare Health Services. She is the regional trainer for computer systems and co-ordinates community homemakers, health care workers and physiotherapists through various organizations.

In a telephone interview with *Niagara News*, Davidson says, if she becomes mayor of Thorold, the first issue she'd like to handle is an immediate review of Thorold's strategic plan.



ROBIN DAVIDSON

Begun in 1994, and through a series of public forums, hearings and meetings, citizens were invited to offer input on where Thorold should be headed economically. This plan, completed in mid-1995, gives city council directions and set budget priorities.

Davidson says Thorold should update the plan since the municipality has changed in the past five years.

She says she'd also like to see the completion of a recreation complex to be sponsored by the city and the Thorold Community Activities group.

The recreation complex would have indoor and outdoor pools, a huge gymnasium, a wellness centre and a large daycare centre.

"It would be like Thorold's own YMCA," Davidson says.

The complex would be built near the Richmond Street School, where the old Lions Club was situated.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 13

"It is an excellent location because it is the centre of the city and people have been waiting a long time for a complex such as this."

Another issue Davidson says must be dealt with is the attack by neighbouring cities to amalgamate. "If I am elected I will ensure Thorold is independent and, as mayor, I hope to cement that. Thorold is a well-run municipality and Thorold has nothing to gain but lots to lose if Thorold becomes one (region-wide) city. Bigger is not better."

Davidson says it is impossible to become one city. "The city would be run by major wealthy business people who are not concerned if the tax bill increases three per cent. It would be impossible for a regular citizen like me to be a part of council because people, such as those in Toronto, would be spending $50,000 on their campaign."

'I hope to cement that. Thorold is a well-run municipality and Thorold has nothing to gain but lots to lose if Thorold becomes one (region-wide) city.'

Davidson says she has no formal education, but would like to become one of those women who retires early and completes her degree.

If elected, Davidson would take a leave of absence from ComCare Health Services to serve as mayor full time, but would still contribute as a volunteer about five hours a week.

She says she has a "positive attitude and an excellent campaign team."

Davidson has two sons, Jeremy, 21, and Josh, 19.

SPORTS

Niagara wins nailbiter against Durham

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

Foul shots hurt, but the Niagara College men's basketball team prevailed in the end.

Niagara played its first exhibition game at home against Seneca College, of North York, winning 75-64 on Oct. 18.

Niagara played a sound game, pulling away at the end.

At the half, Niagara was losing 29-27, but came out on fire in the second half outscoring Seneca 48-35.

Ernell Ellis, last year's scoring average champ, led Niagara with an impressive game high of 32 points.

"In the first half I missed some easy shots, but in the second half I hustled, and took it to the hole more," says Ellis.

Haldon Hutchinson was second in scoring for Niagara with 15 points.

"We picked up our intensity level in the second half, especially on defence," says Hutchinson, adding Niagara got a couple key blocks in the second half by Matt Roberts and LeVar Morgan, which helped the defensive game. Roberts scored eight points, while Morgan got five points.

"I thought our defence was excellent, but we do need to work on our rebounding," says Roberts.

Morgan says, "I was really excited playing my first game for the college." He says, for the next game, the team needs to work on giveaways.

At halftime, an audience member won a qualifying position to win a car at the end of the varsity season. At each varsity basketball game, the team organizes a shootout, and that winner qualifies. On Feb. 16, one of those qualifiers will have the chance to win a car, by heaving the ball either from the end of the court or the middle of the court.

"It's like a hole in one in golf," says Ray Sarkis, co-ordinator of the athletic department.

Aaron Paisley racked up 11 points. He says this game is a confidence booster. "Our rebounding and foul shooting suffered a little bit today, but this game will give us the confidence needed to roll into Saturday's game a lot more focused."

The men's basketball team listens to coach Nero at the exhibition game on Oct. 18. **Photo by Aaron Wilson**

Coach Ralph Nero says winning the first exhibition game was "very important, even though we didn't play as well as they could."

"Missing foul shots was inexcusable and we didn't do the job rebounding, but, I liked our grittiness on defence. At the end it picked up the tempo of the game."

Niagara's next exhibition home game is Tuesday, Nov. 14 against Erie County Community College from Buffalo at 6 p.m. at the college gym.

Niagara hosts golf championship in Niagara Falls

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Mizuno Canada sponsored the Ontario College Athletics Association Golf Championship that Niagara College hosted and participated in at the Whirlpool Golf Course in Niagara Falls, Ont., on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5.

In all, 13 colleges from across the province participated, including Sir Sandford Fleming from Peterborough, Georgian College from Barrie, Humber College from Etobicoke and Seneca College from North York.

"I was very pleased with the turnout and the gathering we got," said Ray Sarkis, co-ordinator of the athletics department.

Sarkis said that last spring the colleges had to make the commitment, "so we knew what to expect."

"The only real disappointment I feel needs to be raised is the lack of female interest. We know there are lady golfers out there, but unfortunately not enough wanted to get involved."

Sarkis said only two colleges of the 13 had women's teams, Georgian College from Barrie and Humber. Niagara, Sir Sandford Fleming and Seneca each sent female golfers.

Sarkis said aside from the weather, the championship went "rather well."

Top male golfer was Mike Rose of Humber, with a score of 146, two over par. The top female golfer was Lisa Procter of Humber, with a score of 155, 11 over par.

The top men's team was from Humber, with Georgian taking second and Niagara taking third.

On the women's side, Georgian took first, with Humber placing second.

"I am extremely pleased with how our team did," said Sarkis. "I knew going into the tournament we would be a team to beat. We have excellent golfers for the next two years and we hope this will attract other golfers to the team and to the new Professional Golf Management program."

Niagara College's top male golfers were Ron Horton and Guillaume Longval, each scoring 152, eight over par.

Niagara's top female golfer was Tanya Nestor.

Sarkis said this was Nestor's first time competing at this level of competition.

"I am very pleased she did so well, and she said she will be back," Sarkis added.

"Conveniently, all the golfers are enrolled in the Professional Golf Management program," said Sarkis.

Sarkis said he hopes next year the team "can do just as well, and maybe better."

Turnovers spoil season opener

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team ran out of gas in its first league game against the Durham College Lords, of Oshawa, losing 64-51 on Oct. 21.

Niagara was hampered by turnovers caused by bad communication.

Niagara made a good comeback in the first half, only trailing Durham 39-33, but fell apart in the final half losing the game by 13 points.

Kelly Lewis led Niagara in scoring with 19 points.

Lewis said the team needs to work on its communication. "We need to run the plays better, that we learn in practice."

Candace Oxford, Niagara's captain, had 11 points.

Oxford said the team "got lazy" in the beginning of the second half.

"We could have come out a lot stronger," said Oxford.

Coach Georgie Groat said she liked the intensity level Niagara played, but the team made the little errors. "We just ran out of steam at the end," said Groat.

Groat said for the next game, "We need to make quicker decisions, and our fitness level is not where we wanted it to be, but it's coming along."

Niagara College will look to get back on track at a home game against Seneca College, of North York, on Oct. 28, at 2 p.m. in the gym.

Women's team plays well at Georgian College

Niagara plays in consolation finals, but falls in overtime in close game against George Brown

By JOEL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team has a berth in the consolation finals following a 15-point win over Ancaster Oct. 13.

The team saw action at the Georgian College Invitational in Barrie dropping their first game to Durham College, of Oshawa, by 27 points.

The Knights rebounded with a 15-point win over Ancaster's Redeemer College, clinching a spot in the consolation finals.

In the finals against Toronto's George Brown College, the Knights managed to send the game into overtime. Even though the Knights had two starters on the bench with five fouls, they were able to send the game into a second overtime. In the dying seconds of the second five-minute period, the George Brown Huskies edged out head coach Georgie Groat's Niagara squad 78-76.

Groat says her team displayed solid rebounding skills and ball control.

Leading the way for Niagara were two prominent rookie freshmen. Janna Douglas, of St. Catharines, who scored 43 points over the three-game period and forward Kelly Lewis who equaled her teammate's performance with 40.

"It was a really fun weekend," says Groat, adding the team was well disciplined in game situations.

The Knights sought revenge when they hosted the team's season opener against Oshawa's Durham College on Saturday, Oct. 21.

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SPORTS

Injuries hamper Knights in bronze medal game

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

Injuries and inexperience plagued the Niagara College touch football team in the bronze medal game in a tournament at St. Lawrence College in Kingston Sept. 13 and 14.

Niagara came up short losing to Mohawk College, of Hamilton, 40-6 in the bronze medal match.

"It is the first time in eight years of coaching we didn't come home with a medal," said coach Randy Conlon.

Previous to the bronze medal game, the Knights played St. Lawrence College in the semi-final.

Conlon said it was Niagara's "best game all tournament."

The Knights had a chance to get to the finals, but with the score tied and not much time to go, St. Lawrence returned a kickoff to end Niagara's chances in heartbreak. By the time Niagara got to the bronze medal game, some players had injuries or were inexperienced playing in new positions for them.

Conlon said for next year he hopes the team could be a little deeper, adding, "A little more experience would help."

Lambton College, of Sarnia, won the gold medal game over St. Lawrence College 15-12.

Conlon said he was pleased with his team's effort. "They weren't there for the bronze medal game, but they still put towards an effort. I was very proud of the team."

Miguel Johnson, 21, of Welland, had an outstanding tournament leading Niagara with six touchdowns and seven interceptions. Johnson is in the Business Administration – Marketing (Co-op) program at Niagara.

Johnson said he doesn't think about interceptions and touchdowns. "My main focus is to help the team to win," said Johnson, who is graduating in April. He will not be back for next year's tournament, but has one wish for the team: "I hope a lot more people tryout for the team next year."

Waterford boy lives his dream at lawn bowling Open

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

He may be a little boy, but he has big dreams and is fulfilling them in Los Angeles, Calif.

With his suitcase in one hand, and his ball in the other, Adam Dredge, 16, of Waterford, Ont., hopped aboard a 4 a.m. flight on Oct. 11, heading to Los Angeles and the U.S. Lawn Bowling Open.

Dredge has been bowling for two years and loves doing it. He bowls out of the Simcoe Lawn Bowling Club.

Dredge was one of two competitors from the club, the other being Jamie MacGowan, 18, of Waterford. About eight from Canada went, the others being from British Columbia.

Dredge said this is his first trip alone. His entire summer was spent in nervous anticipation of the 10 days of a lifetime he is now experiencing.

"I'm so excited. My mom wasn't going to let me, due to going alone, but I worked all summer to pay for it and got sponsors from different companies in the area for the rest and she just had to say yes," said Dredge.

"My dad was all for it. He thought it would be fun and educational and even offered to see if his company would sponsor me, and they were the first ones," he added.

Dredge and MacGowan worked together on getting sponsors for the trip and split the proceeds down the middle.

Dredge said he had to pay about $400 out of his own pocket for some of the ticket cost, while the sponsored money covered transportation to the airport, hotel accommodations and his entry fee.

"It sounds expensive, but if I didn't have the help from the sponsors I wouldn't have been able to go, so I am very grateful to them for their generosity."

Dredge said the days leading to his departure were horrible. In trying to get the business for the trip done, he had to finish two weeks' worth of homework, do laundry and pack.

"My mom took care of my ticket and my traveller's cheques. She also made sure I got my end of the sponsors' money. Mom made sure nothing was missed that could prevent me from going."

"We finally got him off on time on Wednesday," said his mother. "It was crazy all week trying to make sure everything was done and he had everything he needed. The worst part was dropping him off and saying goodbye. I was so scared something would happen just because he was all alone, but he is a big boy and made all the arrangements himself, so he deserved to go," she added.

Dredge's mother said she has been sitting on "pins and needles" since and will until he gets home safely.

Dredge says, "This is going to be so cool. Being on my own, doing what I want when I want, and having a little fun as well. I've never done anything like this before. I have been warned to behave or I will never get to go again, and I don't want my mom to worry, so I will."

No longer an old person's sport, young people are getting a little more involved and starting to show interest.

Dredge said anything is worth a first glance and you shouldn't judge a sport you've never tried.

"Don't assume it is meant for old people, because I can do it just as well as them and have just as much fun as they do, playing it, this being why I am going. If I didn't enjoy it, why would I go?" asked Dredge.

The writer is Adam Dredge's sister.

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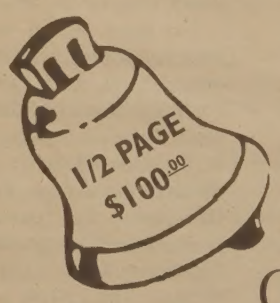

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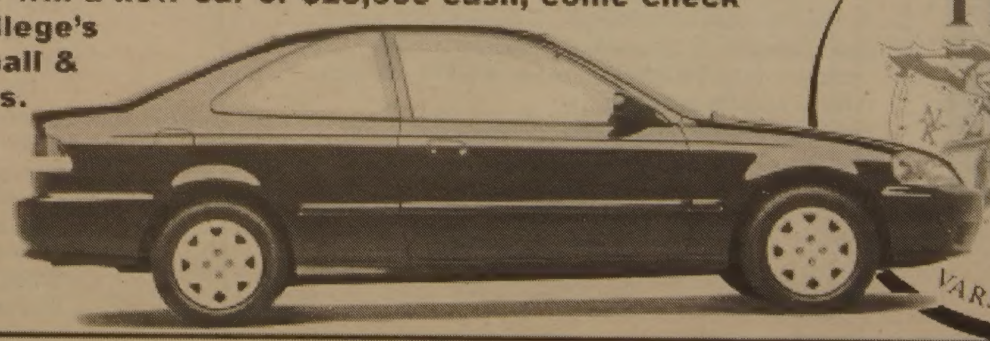

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BOOKWORMS

Tammemagi wins first Niagara Book prize

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

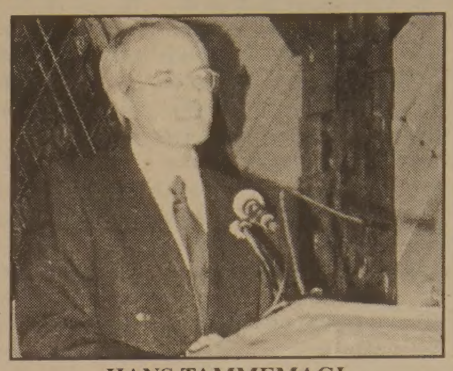
"Every candy bar has a wrapper and every apple has a core." This quote from the preface to a book by Hans Tammemagi, the winner of the first Niagara Book prize.

Tammemagi, 56, from St. Catharines, won the $1,000 prize for his works The Waste Crisis: Landfills, Incinerators, and the Search for a Sustainable Future.

This announcement was made by the editor of the *Downtowner* magazine Sean Chalebois, 30, at the Herder Estate Winery in St. Catharines on Oct. 20, as part of the Words and Wine opening night gala, which kicked off the second annual World of Words Book Festival.

"I am tickled pink and deeply honoured to be the first to accept this award," says the environmental consultant.

Tammemagi says writing fiction is "more difficult," while non-fiction he questioned: "How do you hook the reader?" He also says he had trouble trying to wrap it up and was considering writing recommended do's and don'ts, but instead chose a futuristic garbology ending.



HANS TAMMEMAGI

The Master of Ceremonies for the World of Words Opening Night Gala was William Thomas, renowned Niagara screenwriter, author and columnist in 42 papers.

Thomas has been writing since 1978, when he was working for 3M Innovation company selling overhead projectors and other audio-visual equipment.

He says, "I hated it. Every time I tried to quit they kept on giving me a bigger car. My wife and I had no children at the time so she told me I could do what I always wanted to do."

Thomas gave Tammemagi advice regarding book tours and book signings and included some of his own experiences in a humourous manner. He says Chapters "is a dream to writers and authors and should have been introduced a long time ago," remarking on Chapters' assistance to future authors to give their careers a boost.

Howard Engel, a Canadian crimewriter, says the World of Words organization is a "brave concept in the information age."

Thomas joked that Engel looked like the TV character Kramer from Seinfeld in his high school yearbook, when he introduced him. Engel began his writing career in the 1960s when he was encouraged to write poetry. He then began writing novels. When he was a producer for the CBC he would tape, edit and write an introduction for a news story, but did not consider this writing.

Engel was born in Toronto and moved to St. Catharines when he was young. The Grantham area of St. Catharines is the setting of his novels.

He says he likes St. Catharines because he can make up the setting of the story without having to turn off the computer screen.

Engel lives in Toronto.

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Book sale here Oct. 28

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

Lives and Legacies, a book by the Welland and District Branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), is being promoted as a part of their annual book sale at Niagara College on Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Welland campus.

The co-ordinators of this project from Welland and District Branch are Anita Kitchak and Diana Wieschkowski, of Port Colborne, Stella Buck and Maxine Gaylor, of Welland, and Mary Lamb, of Pelham.

Lives and Legacies is a tribute to the women of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet.

The book, which was the millennium project for the non-profit organization, took two years to complete and has 1,000 copies in print. The cost is $20 a book. It is being sold at local museums and libraries as well as the Regency Giftshop in the Seaway Mall in Welland and at the offices of the *Pelham News* and *Welland Tribune*. The CFUW is contributing a copy to every school in the area for free.

Lives and Legacies contains biographical profiles of more than 35 deceased women of the area. The CFUW is an international organization in Canada and the United States. Each district donates scholarships to its local high schools.

The Welland and District Branch has been sponsoring the annual book sale at Niagara College for more than 10 years, says Kitchak, adding all proceeds go towards the scholarship fund. The branch has successfully donated seven scholarships every year, one at each high school.

The high schools receiving the scholarships include Port Colborne High School, Notre Dame, of Welland, E.L. Crossley, of Pelham, Lakeshore Catholic High School, of Port Colborne, Centennial High School, of Welland, Eastdale, of Welland, and Écolé Confédération, of Welland.

POLITICS

Former PM debates advantages of globalism

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

Former Canadian prime minister John Turner says the country is facing three major issues.

Turner was the key speaker for the topic "Canada: a Vanishing Identity?" at the Playhouse Theatre at Brock University in St. Catharines on Oct. 10.

Turner talked about the debate over Quebec's separatism.

"My sister at McGill University in Montreal calls it the Referendum-Neverendum."

Turner also spoke about the erosion of Canadian sovereignty and the neo-conservative "new fad" globalism.

He says when it comes to the French, the Japanese and the Americans, he wouldn't worry, but Canada is a country "much to worry about," since Canada has "fragmented, decentralized federalism and our muted patriotism, our failure to stand up and wave the flag" are issues he gave the Americans credit for avoiding.

Turner says if the national fibre is not strengthened, the free movement of capital, investments and money will "dilute Canada's nationalism."

Increased production, trade, markets, improvements to technology and better standards of living in developing countries, Turner says, could work in theory, but some results could occur.

He says some of the effects of globalism within Canada are head offices leaving the country because big American businesses are buying Canadian companies out at "bargain-basement price." There would be a widening income gap between the rich and poor and reduced environmental and labour standards.

Turner says the issues regarding globalism must be discussed since "only the Canadian Alliance party is discussing it, the NDP (New Democrats) is off the street, it is discussed less within the PC (Progressive Conservative) Party and (it) is not being debated within the Liberals."

Turner says he would like to have environmental parameters put in place since Canada "has a great frontier."

Turner says the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) "is not really free trade because American law must apply, as it may be amended from time to time."

"Canada occupies the most beautiful land on the globe. Canada has nothing to be ashamed of, and plenty to be proud of. Nowhere in the world can you be more alone with nature than in Canada."

He says he considers Quebec to be "a distinct and multicultural province with their own language, traditions, television and sense of humour."

Turner says he would like to call on "the best and brightest young people" to become more active in politics.

Turner came to Canada in 1932 with his family, who were originally from Richmond, Surrey, England.

He was first elected a Liberal member of Parliament in 1962 in the constituency of Montreal-St. Lawrence-St. George under the Lester Pearson government. Turner was re-elected twice in the general elections of 1963 and 1965, for the Montreal-St. Lawrence-St. George constituency, re-elected in the constituency of Ottawa-Carlton in 1968, 1972 and 1974, but resigned in 1976 to join the law firm of McMillan, Binch in Toronto.

Turner was called upon again in 1984 to lead the Liberals federally, and was elected as the leader on June 16. On June 30, Turner became Canada's 17th prime minister for about three months then called a general election, which he lost to Brian Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative Party.

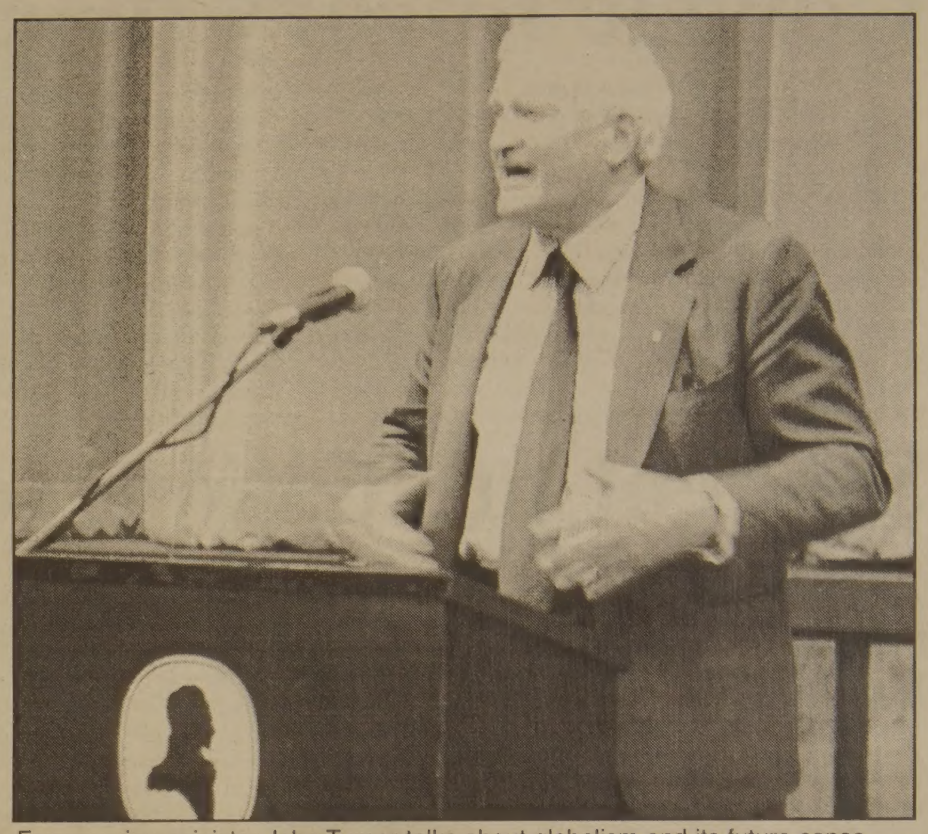
He was the leader of the opposition in the House of Commons until February 1990. He resigned his post to take a law firm partnership with Miller Thomson of Toronto.

From June 1984 until October 1993, he was the MP serving for his third riding of Vancouver-Quadra, the only MP in history to represent electors in three provinces.

On May 3, 1995, he was awarded the Order of Canada, for exemplary achievement.

Turner has numerous degrees from various universities and was called to numerous bars in Canadian provinces such as British Columbia and the Yukon, and in the countries of Britain, Barbados and Trinidad.

Regarding the highlights of his career as prime minister, Turner says, "It's hard to say. I had some good times and some bad times. That's the public life."



Former prime minister John Turner talks about globalism and its future consequences on Canada and the rest of the world at a presentation at Brock University on Oct. 10.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

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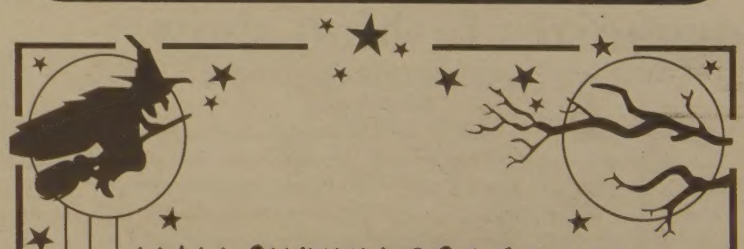
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CAMPUS COVERAGE

College library place to be for studying

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is a "good place" for studying.

Melissa Racine, of the Electronics Engineering Technology program, said she has "never used the resources," and she only uses the LRC for studying.

Racine, 21, said the study rooms are "good" but that the students would "benefit" from adding more of them.

Will Johnson, 20, said he never uses the library resources but they "seem good." Johnson, of the Computer Engineering Technology program, said he would probably use the resources if he were in a different program, one that uses more research resources.

Tariq Saeed, 23, of the Computer Engineering Technology program, said the LRC is "pretty decent but that bigger computer labs and 24-hour access" would make it better.

Jason Haskett, 19, said he hasn't used the LRC resources this year but that he used them once last year and the LRC had "everything I needed."

The students used the LRC mostly for studying. "I do a re-cap on course (material), with nothing else to do here because I don't use the computers for research," said Saeed.

Haskett, of the Law and Security Administration program, said studying in the LRC is "10 times better than studying at home."

Johnson said that with four roommates he needs a place to go that's quiet, that has no distractions, and where he can concentrate, and the LRC has that.

Asked about the librarians, Racine said they were "friendly and helpful."

"They're very nice ladies, but not lenient," said Johnson.

Some of the things the students thought would help to bring more people in are an expansion, sofas and magazines to relax and read, and maybe "some loud music and beer," said Johnson, jokingly.

Haskett said that "more exposure" to students to let them know the LRC is here for them to use would help.

Student predictions for year 2000 revealed

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

Everything old is new again.

"Once in a while I cleaned out my files and I'd see this and thought, 'Oh, I remember that from 1980. I'm going to open it in 2000.' I just kept it in my files and a couple of years ago I saw it and kind of moved it up so that I would remember in 2000 to open it," says Brian Green, who teaches Current Events to Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program and Journalism-Print program students at Niagara College.

The 55-year-old, of Fenwick, Ont., recently revisited the past when he opened a class activity from a second-year Theatre Arts program at the college in 1980. The members of Green's class made predictions for the year 2000. The predictions were filed away, to be opened when the new millennium arrived. "I just put it away and forgot about it," he says.

His class had been exploring future themes at the time. He says this exercise seemed to fit in well with what they were discussing. "It seemed like a natural idea to say, 'OK, why don't we try to predict what 2000 will look like,' and then this evolved. The idea (was) that we'll collect all these ideas and open them in 2000 (and) see who was right."

Green says he currently predicts a major change in the future in how people would get their schooling and how systems of education would change. "I think education, in general, is going to change quite drastically over the next couple of decades.

BRIAN GREEN

"With the access to so much information, I think the teacher is going to have to be less the expert who provides you with his expertise, and more the kind of guide through stuff, and so you'll do most of the learning or research yourself, and the teacher will be more a guide to the vast resources that are around.

"But to have a teacher get up at the front of a class and provide you with his expertise on a single subject . . . I can't see that surviving too much longer, given the availability of information. This is built on a 19th century model, a factory model where you leave home and you go to the factory. This is the education factory, and you get your education, and then you go home at the end of the day and have supper, sleep and come back to the factory the next morning. I think by the end of the 21st century, these kinds of 'bricks and mortar' institutions will probably be gone. We'll get education in much different ways."

Green says he feels activities like this are a good practice for teachers and students because it allows them to think of ideas beyond school work.

"I think that learning should be made as relevant as possible, not necessarily relevant in terms of a skill or a job, but relevant to life, and that it should go out into the community. It should be interesting beyond school. This was still interesting 20 years after school, and got them thinking outside of school, got them thinking about maybe where they would be in 20 years."

Green is on a one-year sabbatical from the college. He is writing a revision for a textbook used in broadcast journalism.

He says he wished he had done this type of "time-capsule" activity more often, having only done it once.

"Memory work and regurgitation is not very interesting, whereas giving stuff some thought and look at what is, being knowledgeable about what is, and projecting to what will be, is pretty interesting."

Predictions made by Brian Green's 1980 class

- "Canadian dollar will level or surpass American dollar in value."
- "NDPs will still not be in power."
- "Two world-power leaders — one for the East and one for the West."
- "Music will tend to be more synthesized."
- "Space-travel tours around the moon and part of the solar system, if not the galaxy."
- "Recycling of about 90 per cent of our garbage because of one basic element of container and products."
- "Dome - cities."
- "Marriage will become temporary and short-lived."
- "Canada will become one with the United States, changing their names into one."
- "Riots break out over massive unemployment."
- "Humans will become more vain."
- "Religion will start to become important."
- "Society will be divided into upper and lower classes, rather than upper, middle and lower."
- "It's a lot better now than it will be."
- "Ban of all nuclear arms."
- "The first colony on the moon will be started."
- "We will establish diplomatic relations with beings from another planet."
- "There will be a three-day work week."
- "Other methods of conception (e.g. cloning, test-tube babies)."
- "Cure for cancer and other terminal diseases."

Human Relations program organizes fashion show

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

Anyone interested in models, runways and fashions, pay attention.

A fashion show, called Hopes and Dreams 2000, will be held at the After Hours pub at Niagara College, Welland campus on Nov. 6.

The tickets will cost $5 each and can be purchased at the door (or in advance) at the SAC office, Welland campus. All proceeds will go to the United Way of Niagara South.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. on Nov. 6 with the show beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The fashion show is a fund-raiser the Human Relations program's students are organizing as a class project.

The clothes being modeled will be from stores in the Seaway Mall in Welland. Models include students, administrative employees, student administrative representatives and Dan Patterson, Niagara College president.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Executive assistant at home at Niagara

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

He has lived in three provinces, worked in television and politics, and is now working with Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

Darrell Neufeld, 38, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, has been the executive assistant to the college president since October 1998.

Neufeld says he works 50 hours a week and tries to get weekends off so he can spend time with his family. "I work very hard at achieving balance in my life. I try not to bring my work home with me. I have a young family."

Neufeld and his wife Carol have two children, Emily and Andrea. He has been married 14 years and lives in Vineland. "I like the drive in to work. I take the back roads. It gives me a chance to relax in the morning."

Neufeld went to Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto and acquired a bachelor of applied arts degree in radio and television. He graduated in 1984.

After graduating, Neufeld says he moved to Manitoba, where he began working as a reporter at a television station in Dauphin. He says he stayed at the station for five months.

He then moved to a station in Yorkton, Sask., for seven months. In Yorkton, he reported on the news, weather and sports.

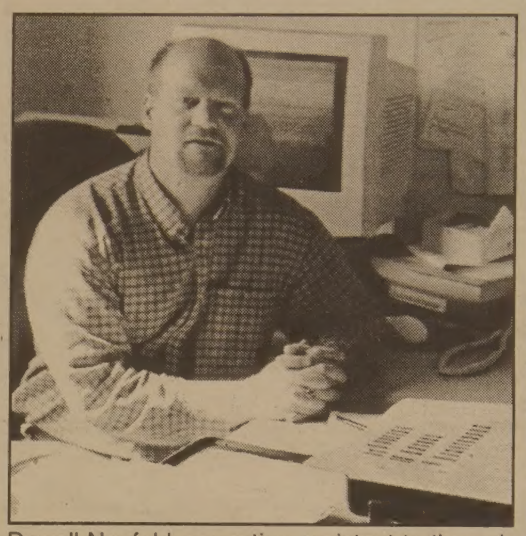
Neufeld says he ended up working at CKND, a Global affiliate in Winnipeg, Man. At CKND Neufeld was a news anchor and says he spent a lot of time covering the provincial legislature.

It was through his coverage of the legislature and the contacts he made there, says Neufeld, that he was offered a job as a director of communications for the provincial Liberal Party.

"In June 1988 I entered the fast-paced and exciting world of political communications."

Neufeld says from 1988 until he left in 1993, he was responsible for helping the Liberal leader and caucus communicate with the media and electorate.

He says he moved back to Ontario in 1993 and began working for the provincial Liberals at Queen's Park. He stayed with the Liberals until six months after the 1995 election when the Progressive Conservatives under Mike Harris beat the Liberals.



Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the college president, in his Welland campus office.
Photo by Calum McNeil

Neufeld began 1996 working at a government-relations and consulting firm called Enterprise Canada. There his job was to help organizations in their dealings with government. To his credit, he helped launch the Ontario College of Teachers, a self-regulating body that oversees all teachers in Ontario.

In 1997, Neufeld moved to St. Catharines and joined OEB International, a firm that assists organizations with public relations and communications.

It was while he was working there that he met Patterson for the first time. "I got to know Dan through a project I was working on. I recruited him onto an organizing committee for a conference for the government jobs and investment board I was working on. I needed him because he was a community leader in the region."

It was then, Neufeld says, he was told of a new position at the college. "Dan mentioned to me that a new position had been created at the college. He asked if I knew anybody interested in being his executive assistant. As it happens I did, and the rest is history."

Neufeld says his job here involves acting as a liaison between the president's office and the various vice-presidential offices. "I work with Dan's administrative assistant on correspondence, and make sure Dan is briefed, prepared and knowledgeable for all his meetings and interviews.

"I enjoy working with Dan," says Neufeld. "Dan is a great guy to work for. I admire his energy and commitment to students. Nothing makes him happier than to see students succeed. He is constantly getting into the community to make sure the college is in tune with the region's needs economically."

Neufeld says he has never had any conflicts with Patterson.

He says he would like to see more funding from all levels of government for the college as Ontario colleges get less money per student than public schools and universities. "We need resources for equipment upgrades."

Neufeld says the college has been forced to seek greater private sector investment to compensate for the lack of government funding and it is good public relations for the firms that invest in the college.

Neufeld says he is co-chairing this year's United Way campaign with Rena Posteraro. "We are aiming for $20,000 and 200 employees from the college to get involved. With two weeks left, we are well on our way to achieving our goal."

Neufeld says he is happy working at the college. " There are lots of opportunities for professional development at Niagara."

Business instructor envisions long career at college

Continued from Page 2

In the second year of his MBA program, Butko travelled to London, England, as part of an exchange program with a business school there affiliated with the University of London.

"So it was good, it was rewarding, but I missed the recruiting at McGill; they had several corporations come out. So I was taking that summer off, and I ran into my old dean at Brock and he said, 'Do you want to teach some finance and accounting up here?' So I stumbled into teaching."

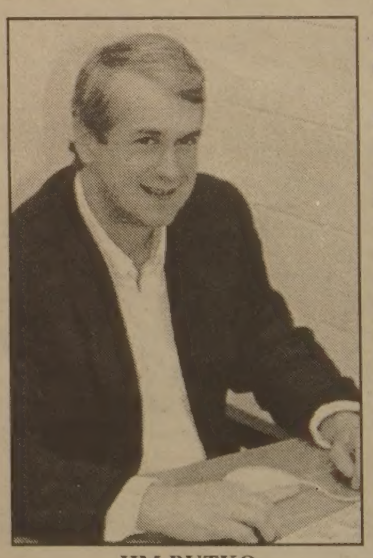
How he ended up at the college, he continued, is explained in another anecdote. After teaching for 12 years at the university, he left Brock to pursue his PhD (doctor of philosophy) at Queen's University in Kingston, but then found himself drawn to financial planning.

'I ran into my old dean at Brock and he said, 'Do you want to teach some finance and accounting up here?' So I stumbled into teaching.'

"I got my certified financial planner's licence, a designation actually, but I missed teaching. That's why I started doing Continuing Education, to keep my hand in teaching, to combine the two things. I wanted to teach post-secondary education, I wanted to stay in Niagara and I couldn't teach at Brock. I was just hoping for something to open up at Niagara (College) at some point, as a way to satisfy all my objectives . . . For the longest time nothing opened up here."

Asked if he likes his job at the college, he said, "I really like it here," adding he wouldn't mind teaching courses in finance and financial planning.

While he said he likes the courses he's teaching, he expressed a minor reservation. "When you teach law and you're not a lawyer, you feel a little bit vulnerable. You don't have the background that someone may want, but they (the college) didn't want a lawyer to teach (business) law. They wanted someone with a business background. I can tie in certain things together better than a lawyer could, but I still feel a little vulnerable when I don't have the case law background."



JIM BUTKO

Asked if he had remaining goals to pursue, such as managing a business or opening his own business, Butko said, "No, I'd like to be here. There's things I can do that complement this (teaching): limited financial planning. Still, I'd like to have some clients . . . like-minded individuals, so I don't have, like, a clientele where there's 89-year-old widowers and six-year-old children that have totally different needs.

"Basically, I'd develop a clientele that's like me, so that my goals, my ambitions — I can correspond to them and I don't have to worry too much about their differences and idiosyncrasies. And that is the ideal, to mesh with this kind of occupation (teaching).

"I want to keep my hand in financial planning. You'll have to do Continuing Education each year to keep your CFP (Certificate of Financial Planning) designation, so that's something I don't want to lose. But, actually, I see myself here, hopefully for 20 years."

"I took a little shot at entrepreneurship," Butko said, "but there [illegible] don't mesh with my personality and also with my family needs right now. As a (self-employed) financial planner I didn't have benefits. I have six kids; you need benefits. At this point in my life, it's not something I want to do. Twenty years from now, at the age of 64, maybe it's a good time to be a financial planner. Who knows?"

Asked his thoughts of the college as a whole, he said, "There's really nothing that I haven't been favourably impressed with, except you get some students who won't come to class and that gets discouraging. The students that are here are great, they're eager, they're generally hard-working, it seems.

"The faculty are great. Anytime I have the least bit of a problem, there's absolutely no problem getting somebody to give me a hand. And that is what I'd expect from the faculty. They're great."

He said he has only minor concerns, as in trying hard to book the campus's Yerich Auditorium, the largest room at Glendale, for testing 200 students at once.

Otherwise, he added, "I don't have any problems." With a smile, he demonstrated one thing, though, as he lifted his phone's handle off its receiver. "Sometimes when I lift up my phone, the thing sticks."

He praised the Glendale campus, which he said reminded him of the London business school he had attended, in having all of the campus's main facilities, such as the library, the gym and the pub under one roof. This distinction separates the Glendale campus from Brock or McMaster, he added. "I like it here."

campus, he said, "[illegible]ing of the great already," adding he thought the presence of horticultural and business programs at one campus to be "a perfect mix."

"I think (at) this college they've got the right (plan). They've gone co-op (co-operative education) to a large extent — a lot of co-op programs. And that's great for students to learn. They have ties into the community because it is a community-based institution, so the more you can tie into the community through the employers the better. And I think they've got a good plan here. It's just going to take time to recognize the calibre of the students.

"The students, the faculty, the facilities are all wonderful. I've even used the (campus) weight room a few times. I thought I'd get in more, but the activities, the academic activities picked up a bit, got in the way of my fun."

He said having a family takes away from his leisure time too. "With six kids, you don't have as much time for hobbies as you used to." Besides "coaching a couple of (my) kids in soccer," he said he finds some time to do investing and play a little hockey.

'The faculty are great. Anytime I have the least bit of a problem, there's absolutely no problem getting somebody to give me a hand.'

He added, one indulgence for him is playing fantasy baseball online because he can create his own make-believe baseball team comprising fictional ball players he has drafted.

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